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**TRUE TALES OF THE WORLD'S KOOKIEST  
CRACKPOTS AND VISIONARIES!**

# THE BIG BOOK OF WEIRDOS

**WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
CARTOONIST, NOVELIST, AND  
SELF-CONFESSED WEIRDO**

**GAHAN WILSON**

ISBN: 1-56389-180-8



# THE BIG BOOK OF WEIRDOS



BY  
**CARL POSEY**  
AND 67 OF  
THE WORLD'S TOP  
COMIC ARTISTS



**PARADOX PRESS**  
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# INTRODUCTION

BY  
GAHAN WILSON

Face it — you just did a weird thing.

I don't know where you did it — you could have been in a bookstore, or maybe in a friend's house — but you saw this book and that funny little voice in the back of your head, that voice that sounds like you talking out loud but which only you can hear, that voice that tells you to *do* things, said: "*Pick it up! That book about **Weirdos**!! You know you want to read it!*" And you did pick it up, and here it is in your hands.

Now, you shouldn't be concerned or wonder if this means you're going crazy, because picking up this book and reading it is a perfectly sane and logical action; being interested in Weirdos makes sense. *Not* being interested in Weirdos is unwise, and can even be dangerous. For example, should you see a tall, heavysset Weirdo clumping toward you on the sidewalk and pulling something glinty and sharp out of a greasy paper bag as he looks at you sidewise and asks God, "*Should I?*", if you see all that and you don't become interested enough in him to at least quickly and quietly cross the street, getting out of his path and clear of his field of vision, then you are very likely to end up as a brief item on that evening's TV news (featuring a badly-lit shot of your pooled blood congealing on the sidewalk).

This is not to imply by any means that interest in Weirdos is only negative — if you can spot the right Weirdo you can make a fortune (Henry Ford,

page 151), find salvation (Georges Gurdjieff, page 60), or experience the absolute tops in literature (Fyodor Dostoyevsky, page 91), art (Vincent van Gogh, page 131) or theater (Sarah Bernhardt, page 96). Without Weirdos to lead the way, in fact, we all would still be wrapped in the rotting hides of animals, crouching around fires in caves, and dying miserably of old age at around sixteen years old. Actually, we wouldn't be anywhere near that well off, because the fire wouldn't be there if some Weirdo hadn't been nutty enough to think of lighting one indoors, and we'd still be shivering in our bare flesh if another Weirdo hadn't been perverted enough to try to wear an animal instead of just gulping it down!

The truth is, you have to be pretty weird to invent a light bulb or create surrealism or put together the FBI, and if you think your totally unweird Uncle Fred could come up with "The Tell-tale Heart" or "Swan Lake" or "Plan Nine from Outer Space," think again. He's probably never even heard of them. (Come to think of it, do you *have* any unweird relatives? I don't think *I* do.)

Of course, the great problem with Weirdos is that they can, and often do, mislead the rest of us in a highly spectacular wrong direction. Adolf Hitler (page 25), for example, was absolutely certain World War II was for our own good (not to mention the Holocaust); Walter Freeman (page 156) was altogether convinced that turning the emotionally troublesome among us into passive vegetables via prefrontal lobotomies was the greatest idea since sliced bread; and it's an absolute certainty that Ivan the Terrible (page 16) would have been astounded to learn he'd go down in history as Ivan the Terrible.



Let a really talented Weirdo make a serious mistake and the rest of us can end up having truly spectacular problems. But what would happen if, because of this potential danger, the Non-Weirdos of the world somehow managed to perfect a society where no Weirdo ever got the chance to do his or her own thing (which is self-contradictory, when you think about it, as the whole scheme is 100% pure Weirdo). Where would that put us?

I think it would put us to sleep, and far, far too many of us are already born asleep, live out our whole lives asleep, and, finally, die asleep. Could we possibly stay awake if we knew how the plots of all the movies or television shows would end? What if no book ever surprised us? Suppose every painting you ever saw reminded you of every other painting you'd ever seen? Would you even bother to bite into any more pies or sandwiches if the contents of every one were totally predictable?

Imagine how it would be if everybody always agreed on everything, and you knew exactly how everybody had spent last night because they'd spent it just the same way you'd spent it yourself, and you could tell what would be happening in your life two years from now because your life would be just exactly the same as your two-years-older neighbor.

Are you still awake?

The fact is that it would be a dreadful mistake to eliminate Weirdos, no matter what the dangers, no matter what the costs. If we did not have Weirdos in our population, we would have to make them up.

But not to worry, there is not even the slightest danger of Weirdo scarcity in ourselves or others. Look back over any day you spend and I guarantee you will discover a generous abundance of the Weirdo factor both in others and in yourself. Watch the news, see who runs the country, see who owns it, see who's trying to build it up and who's trying to destroy it, and you will be at ease: There is absolutely no chance of a Weirdo shortage.

Be aware, though, that this invaluable Weirdo factor requires intelligent maintenance. And that is another proof that you weren't crazy at all when you picked up this book, because if you study carefully the little stories contained in *The Big Book of Weirdos* you will discover that they offer endless

helpful suggestions and examples that will assist you enormously in successful Weirdo management, both interior and exterior.

You'll learn that some kinds of Weirdo quirks are extremely handy. Being able to make millions by outguessing everybody else on the stock market, or succeeding in showbiz as an escape artist, for instance, are only two examples of Weirdo talents that can be counted as a definite plus. (If *you* possess such talents, you may feel free to make use of them as often and as unreservedly as you like.)

There are also generous examples of the little pitfalls that now and then present themselves and which you should be on your guard against. Absorb the contents of this book and you will learn that it's a danger sign if you find yourself indulging in odd peculiarities such as sleeping in a coffin instead of a bed, or if you seem to be losing control over that nagging obsession you have about germ contamination. You will even be made aware of the riskiness lurking behind what may seem benign or even laudable practices, such as mass feeding of city pigeons, or the possibly overenthusiastic collecting and stacking of moldy old newspapers.

Keep this book with you always, consult it carefully (without moving your lips and speaking aloud in public, if possible) every time you have that funny feeling that things are slipping out of control, and there is an excellent chance that you will avoid a sufficient accumulation of negative Weirdo factor to push you over into outright insanity.

It's worked for me.

So far, at least.

At least, I *think* it has.

**GAHAN WILSON** was officially declared "born dead" by the attending physician in Evanston, Illinois, but survived anyway to become a cartoonist published in periodicals as diverse as *The New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *Gourmet*, *Punch*, and *Paris Match*. He has written two mystery novels (*Eddy Deco's Last Caper* and *Everybody's Favorite Duck*) and is currently writing *The Big Book of Freaks* for Paradox Press.



# CHAPTER ONE

## UNRULY RULERS

### AUTOCRATS AND DICTATORS

It's been said that power corrupts — and that absolute power corrupts absolutely. What isn't usually mentioned is how darn *weird* absolute power makes people... or how weirdness often seems to be a prerequisite for obtaining power in the first place. Blame it on inbreeding, doubtless a contributing factor among dynastic rulers like Elagabalus (*page 8*) and Caligula (*page 11*), or poor upbringing (Hitler, *page 25*), or just a sadistic nature (Ivan the Terrible, *page 16*), but the reasons why are almost beside the point: These rulers, despots all, were really strange. And with absolute power at their disposal, they treated their countrymen and kingdoms as their own personal playthings... as often as not, with disastrous consequences.





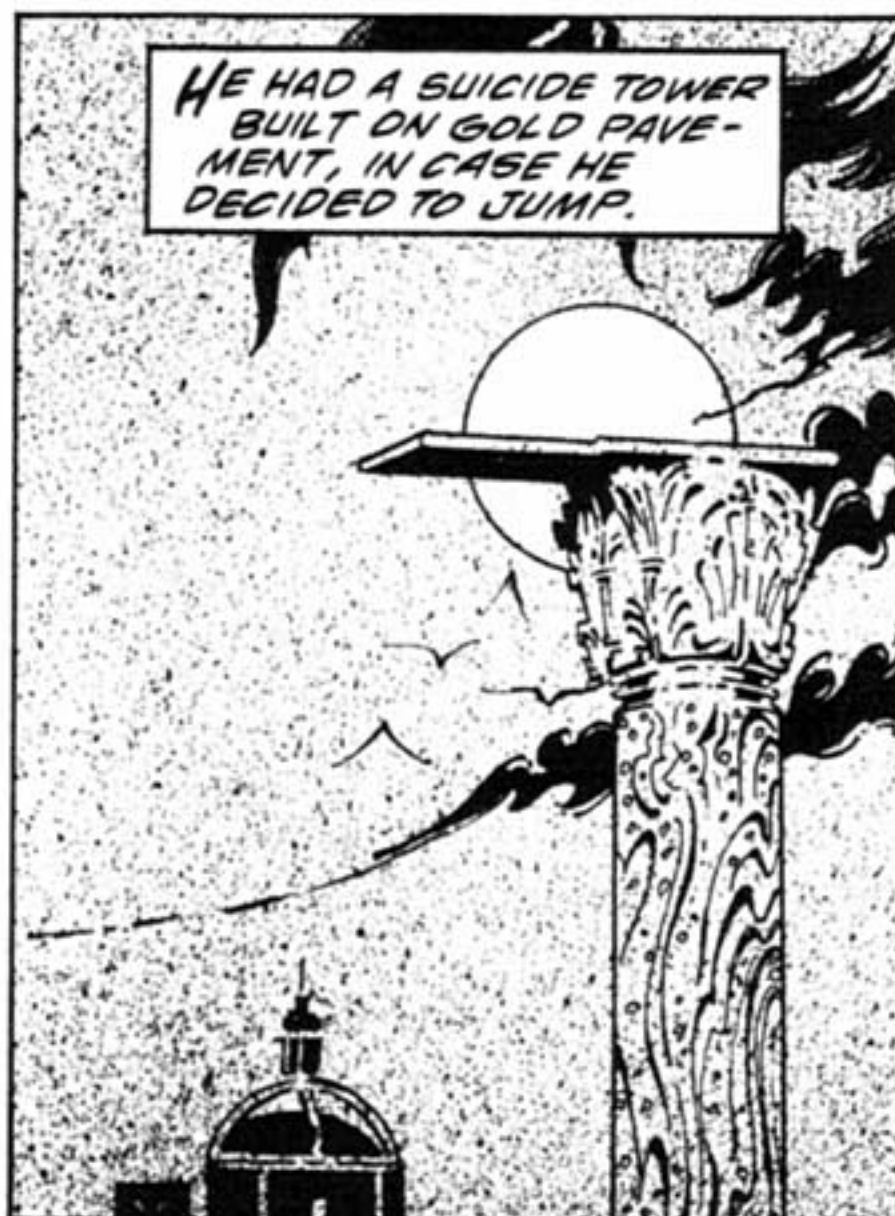








DETERMINED THAT HIS FATE WOULD BE SHAPED ONLY BY HIMSELF, HE ASSEMBLED A SUMPTUOUS SUICIDE KIT.



HE HAD A SUICIDE TOWER BUILT ON GOLD PAVEMENT, IN CASE HE DECIDED TO JUMP.



OBSESSED WITH THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE, HE FAILED TO SEE THAT EVEN HIS GRANDMOTHER HAD TURNED AGAINST HIM.

SOON, MY WILD BOY, YOUR TIME WILL BE UPON YOU.



SHORTLY, A VIOLENT OUTBREAK AMONG HIS PALACE GUARDS...



... CAUSED HIM TO FLEE WITH HIS MOTHER.



THE TWO FINALLY FOUND A PLACE WITHIN THE PALACE WALLS TO HIDE FROM THE REBELLIOUS GUARDS... A SLIT-TRENCH URINAL.

WE'LL BE SAFE HERE, MOTHER.



BUT WHEN THE GUARDS SOUGHT MOMENTARY RELEASE AFTER A HARD DAY'S BATTLE...

TAKE THEM!

I DON'T DESERVE THIS!



HIS 13-YEAR-OLD SUCCESSOR FARED BETTER -- HE LIVED TO THE RIPE OLD AGE OF 26.



# GAIUS CAESAR-CALIGULA



...BETTER KNOWN SIMPLY AS CALIGULA, RULED ANCIENT ROME FOR FOUR SHORT, HORRIBLE YEARS--AND ENTERED THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES AS THE EMBODIMENT OF CAPRICIOUS CRUELTY.



HE WAS NOT ALWAYS BAD. BORN IN AD 12, HE WAS THE SON OF GERMANICUS, A POPULAR WARRIOR--AND THE NEPHEW AND ADOPTED SON OF THE REIGNING EMPEROR, OLD TIBERIUS.



SEEING HIM IN BATTLEDRESS, HIS FATHER'S SOLDIERS GAVE HIM A NICKNAME.

AH, CALIGULA!

IT MEANT "LITTLE BOOTS."



WHEN GERMANICUS DIED--POSSIBLY POISONED--LITTLE BOOTS STEPPED INTO HIS SHOES AS THE ADOPTED SON OF TIBERIUS.



TIBERIUS TAUGHT THE BOY ALL HE NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT DEGENERACY OF EVERY KIND.

CALIGULA, JOIN IN, JOIN IN.

NOT NOT. NOT YET.



IN AD 37, CALIGULA'S PATIENCE PAID OFF. THE 78-YEAR-OLD TIBERIUS SICKENED.



ACCORDING TO SOME HISTORIANS, CALIGULA HELPED HIM DIE.

GOODBYE, DISGUSTING GEEZER.



THE ROMAN SENATE GAVE HIM THE THRONE.

IT SEEMED AN INSPIRED IDEA...

...AT FIRST.



















THE 17-YEAR-OLD BOY CROWNED  
CZAR OF RUSSIA IN 1547 WAS  
CALLED IVAN GROZNY- IVAN THE  
AWESOME. BUT HE HAS COME TO  
US THROUGH HISTORY AS...

# IVAN the TERRIBLE















HE SENT HUNDREDS OF SECRET POLICE--OPRICHNIKI--TO CRUSH DISSENT.

A NEW WORLD ORDER.



INFORMERS WERE EVERYWHERE.

OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO GET OUT OF THE OPRICHNINA... I MEAN...



PEOPLE BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR.

ANYA! ANYA! GOD HELP US!



HIS SIEGE OF NOVGOROD KILLED 30,000 PEOPLE--BRUTALLY.



MANY OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED IVAN DIED OF STARVATION.



WHEN HE TIRED OF KILLING HIS SUBJECTS, HE TURNED ON HIS FOLLOWERS...



...AND HAD THEM FLAYED AND BOILED FOR IMAGINED SINS.

OPRICHNINA EXPERIMENT IS OVER.



HE WAS AWE-INSPIRING--TERRIBLE, THAT IS--TO THE DEATH, WHICH CLAIMED HIM IN 1584.



BUT, TO HIS CREDIT, HE PAID FOR PRAYERS FOR A FEW THOUSAND OF HIS MANY VICTIMS.

NOBODY'S ALL TERRIBLE.











WAGNER IMMEDIATELY EMBARKED ON HIS MONUMENT TO HIMSELF -- A MUSIC PERFORMANCE HOUSE AT BAYREUTH, 100 MILES NORTH OF MUNICH.

THEY AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET.



HIS OPERA SETS DEFIED THE IMAGINATION -- WHOLE FORESTS...



... AND CAVERNS DRAPED WITH STALACTITES.



BUT THE CITIZENS BALKED AT SUCH EXTRAVAGANCE, AND SENT WAGNER PACKING BACK HOME.

THE KING WAS SORRY TO SEE HIS HERO GO, BUT NOT FOR LONG. LUDWIG WAS BECOMING VERY BUSY.



UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, THE REMARKABLE CASTLE NEUSCHWANSTEIN -- NEW SWAN'S CRAG -- WAS BUILT IN THE ALPS.



IT JUMBLED TOGETHER EVERY STYLE, FROM EVERY CULTURE. BUT LUDWIG WAS ALREADY WORKING ON ANOTHER MASTERPIECE...



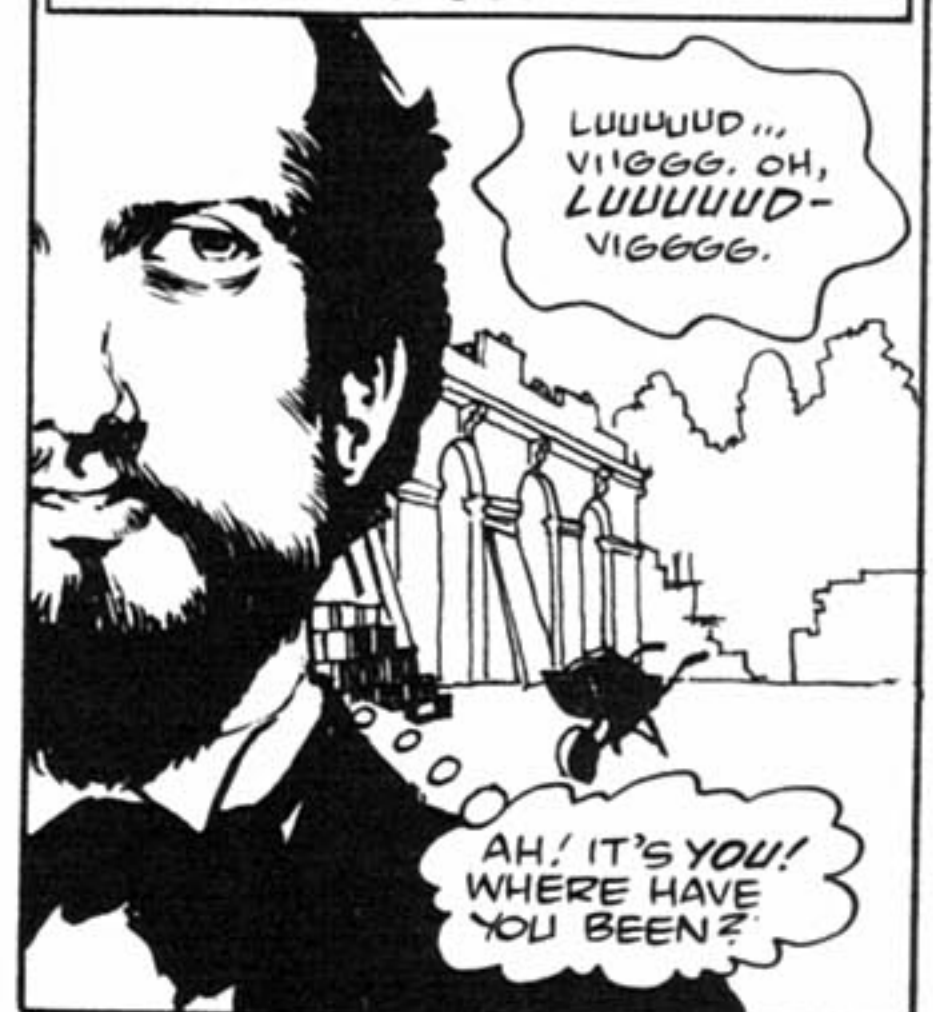
... WHICH WAS LINDERHOF, A SMALL COPY OF FRENCH KING LOUIS XIV'S PALACE AT VERSAILLES.



LUDWIG HAD ALSO BEGUN BUILDING HERRENCHIESSEE -- A VIRTUAL DUPLICATE OF VERSAILLES, STILL INCOMPLETE WHEN THE ROYAL BUILDER DIED.



BUT THESE IMPOSSIBLY EXPENSIVE CASTLES WERE JUST THE TIP OF LUDWIG'S ICEBERG OF STRANGENESS.



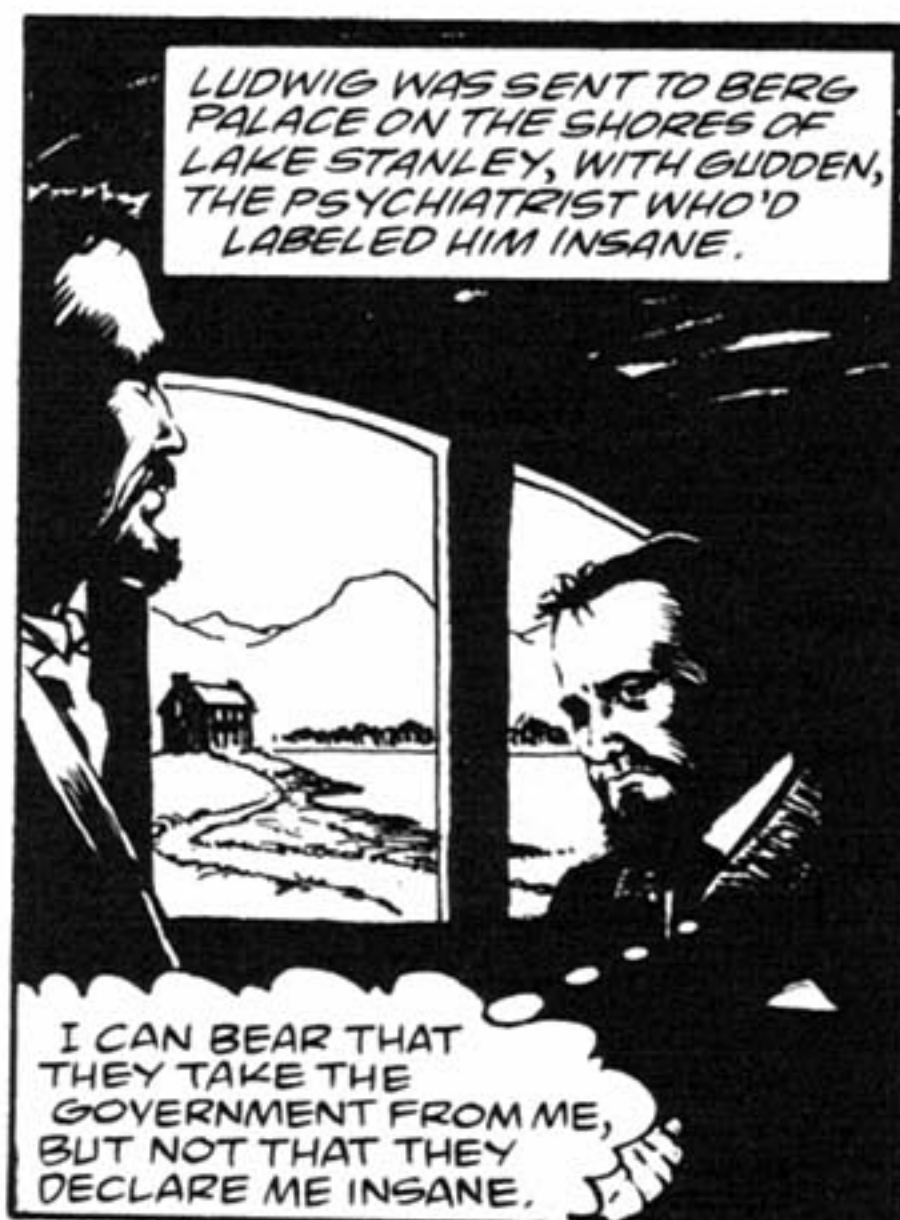
LUUUUD... VIIGGG. OH, LUUUUD-VIIGGG.

AH! IT'S YOU! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?













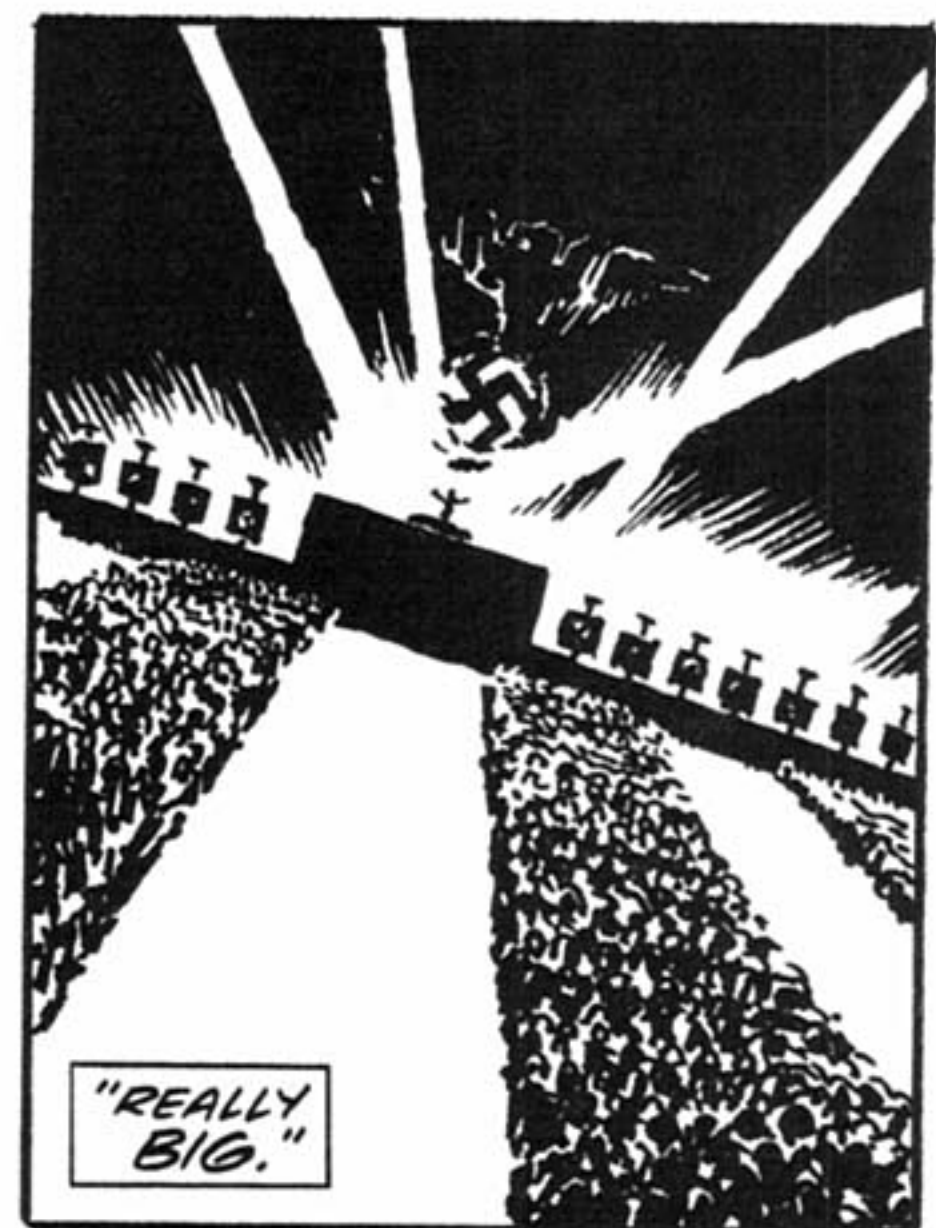




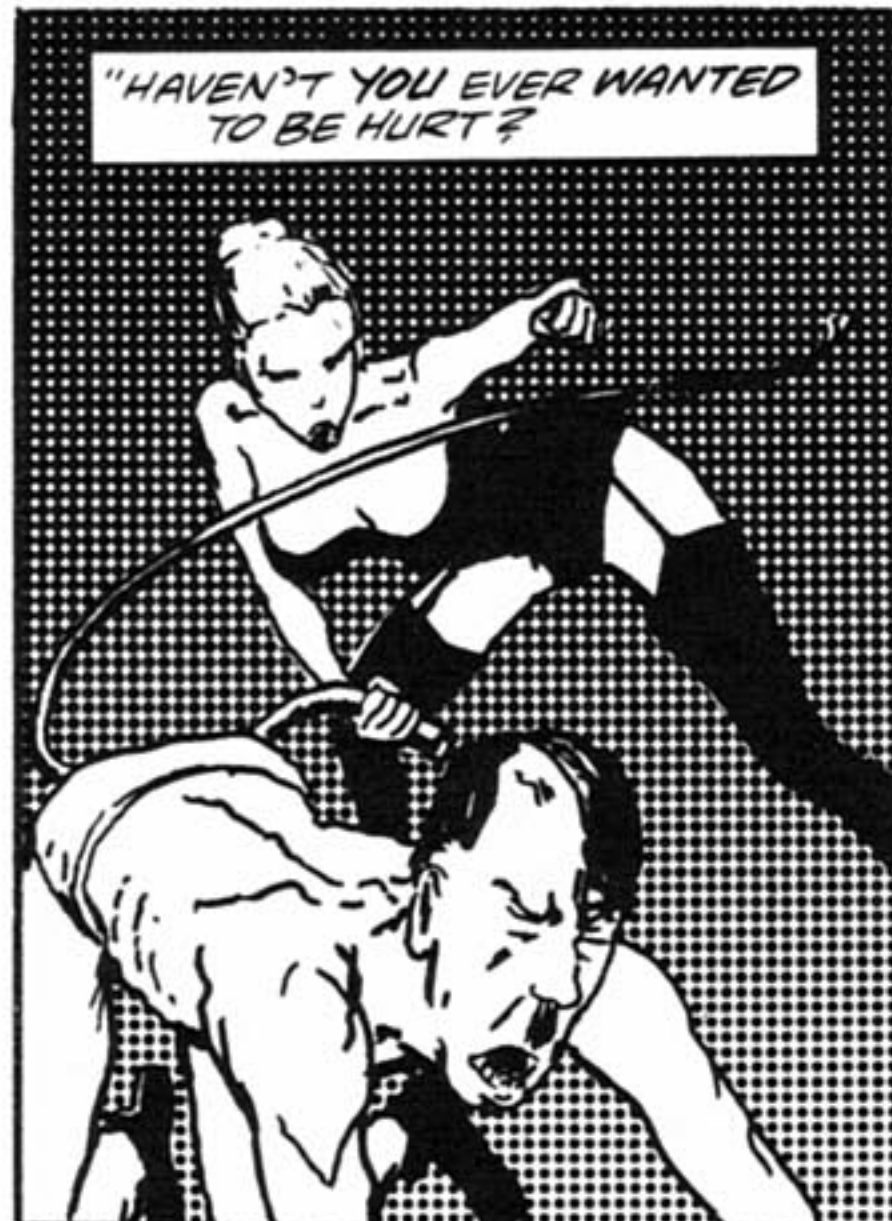
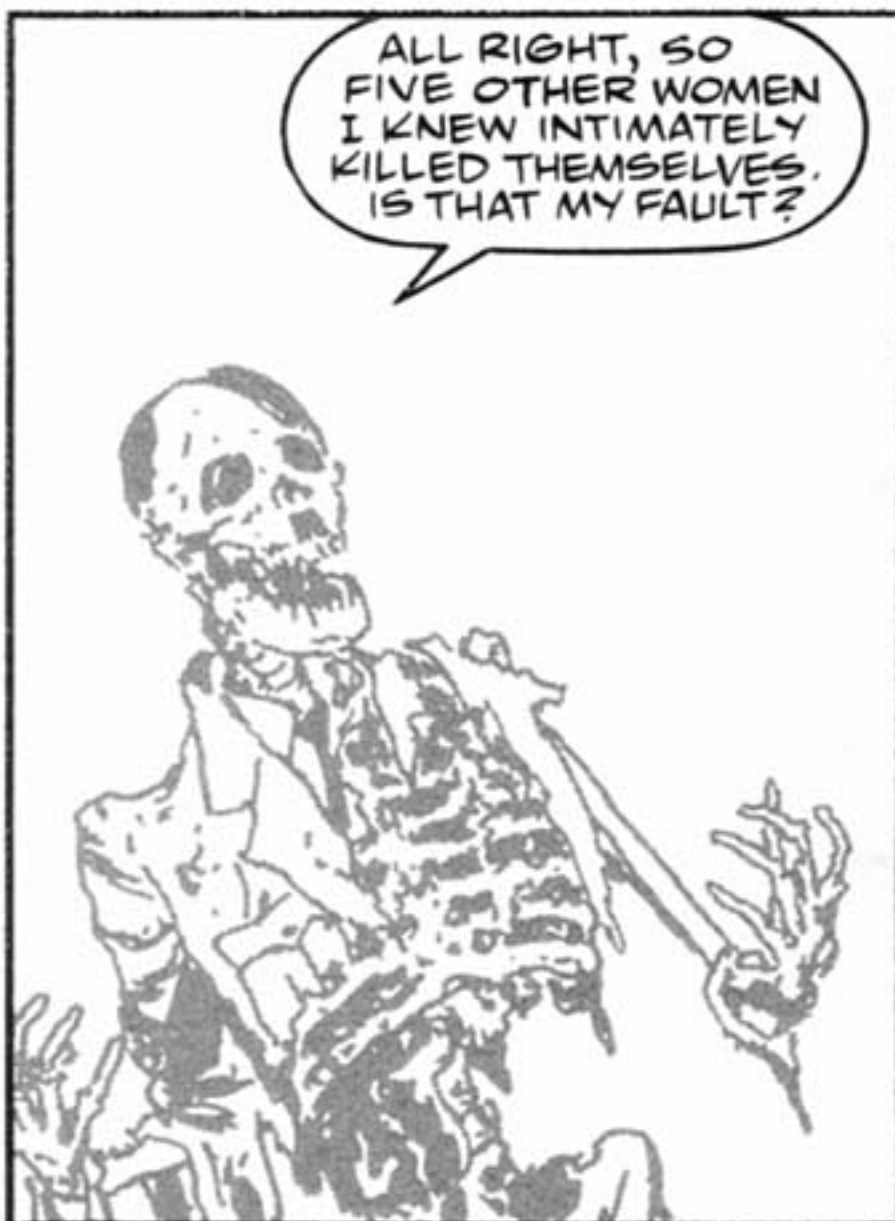
















UPON THE DEATH OF EGYPT'S KING FAUOI IN 1936, A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY BECAME THE NEXT TO OCCUPY THE WORLD'S OLDEST EXISTING THRONE. THEY CALLED HIM...

# KING FAROUK



AT FIRST, HIS PEOPLE REJOICED.

I START MY NEW LIFE WITH A GOOD HEART AND A STRONG WILL.



I PROMISE TO DEVOTE MY LIFE AND MY BEING TO YOUR GOOD, TO BEND ALL MY EFFORTS TO CREATE YOUR HAPPINESS.



NO KING HAD EVER SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT BEFORE--OR PROMISED THEM ANYTHING.

LONG LIVE FAROUK! ALLAH BE PRAISED!



FAROUK MEANT WELL. BUT HIS UPBRINGING HADN'T PREPARED HIM TO BE DEVOTED TO ANYONE BUT HIMSELF.

WHAT'S GOOD FOR ME IS GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE!



WEALTHY BEYOND IMAGINING--WITH PALACES, YACHTS, PLANES, A HUNDRED CARS, AND THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF LAND--FAROUK WANTED MORE.



MORE!

FORGET IT, AHMED. IT'S THE KING.



OH, ALLAH, NOT FAROUK AGAIN!

MORE!

blam blam blam





THE SEARCH FOR MORE TOOK HIM ON MAD SHOPPING SPREES IN EUROPE.



HE SPENT FORTUNES COLLECTING WATCHES, JEWELS, COINS, PAPER-WEIGHTS...



... AND WOMEN.

I THOUGHT "OBJECT OF DESIRE" WAS JUST A PHRASE!



BUT EVEN FAROUK'S EXCESSES COULD NOT EASE HIS TERRIBLE ITCH TO ACQUIRE.

I NEED MORE THINGS! I NEED MORE MONEY! MORE!



SO FAROUK BECAME A THIEF.

THE ITALIANS ARE LOSING, SIRE. WE CAN SIMPLY DIVERT THEIR GOLD INTO YOUR ACCOUNTS.



DURING WORLD WAR II, FAROUK'S THUGS PLUNDERED THE CONFISCATED VILLAS OF GERMAN DIPLOMATS.



WHEN THE COFFIN OF THE SHAH OF IRAN'S FATHER PASSED THROUGH CAIRO, FAROUK'S MINIONS RELIEVED IT OF A CEREMONIAL SWORD AND MEDALS.



BUT HE ENJOYED IT MOST WHEN HE DID HIS OWN STEALING.



MORE!







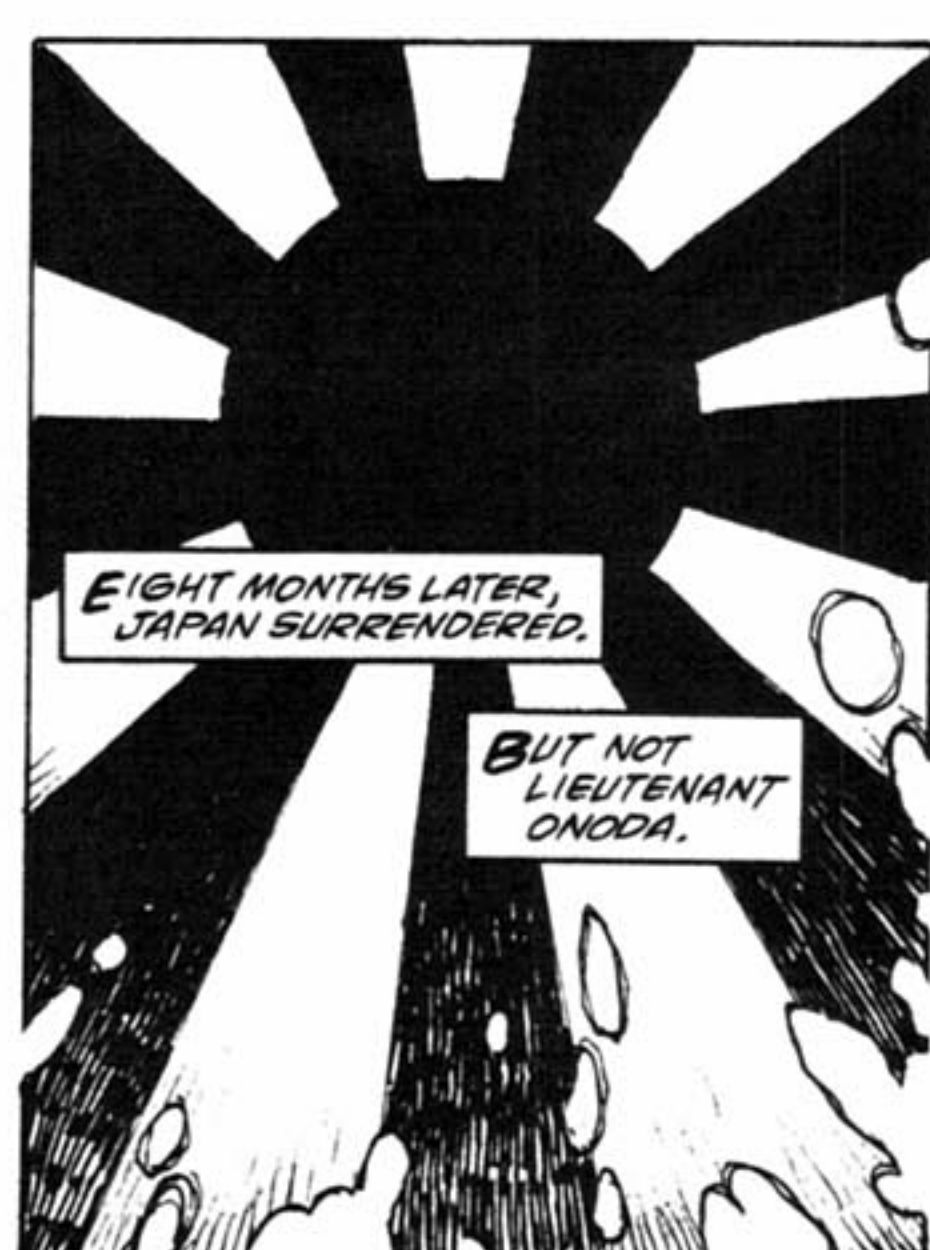
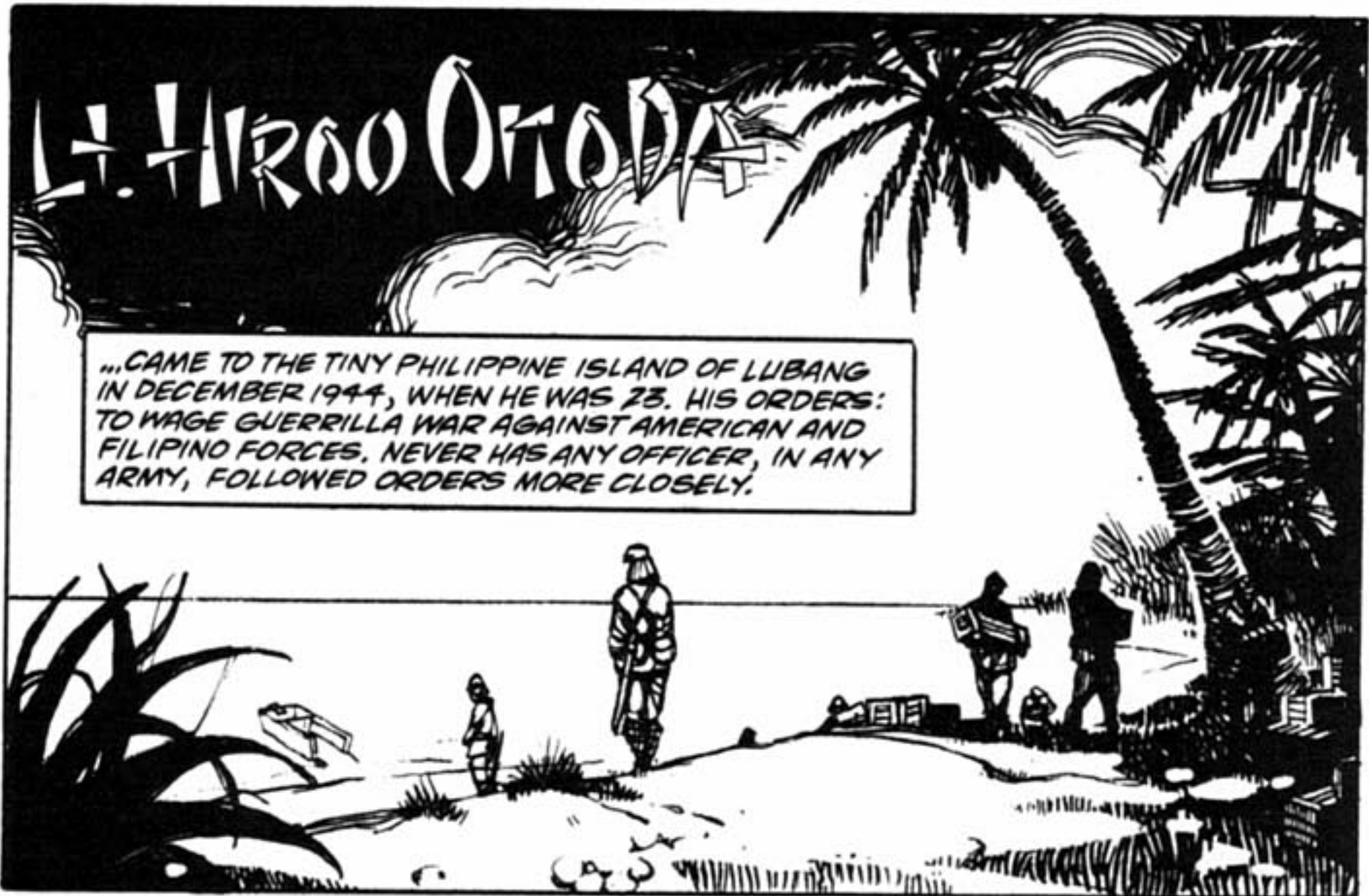
# CHAPTER TWO

## ONWARD, CRACKPOT SOLDIERS

### MILITARY MEN

What is it about a man in a uniform? So determined, so forceful, so brave, so . . . bizarre. Perhaps it's the pressure of warfare that fragmented these soldiers' minds and drove them into the kingdom of the weird . . . or maybe they were born strange and kept their tendencies secret until military service allowed them to blossom. How else to explain Hiroo Onoda (*page 34*), the Japanese soldier who refused to surrender until thirty years after the conclusion of World War II? Or the legendary Lawrence of Arabia (T.E. Lawrence, *page 36*), known as a hero to millions of movie fans but remembered as a delusional, battle-crazed warrior by those who knew him. Or Idi Amin (*page 44*), undoubtedly the weirdest military mind of our time, who waged a paranoid war on his own people while the world watched in disbelief. For these and other military weirdos, war is not just a job . . . it's an adventure.









IN 1949, ONE OF HIS FEW MEN DISAPPEARED.



SOON AFTERWARD HE FOUND A NOTE FROM THE MISSING MAN.

"WHEN I SURRENDERED, THE PHILIPPINE TROOPS GREETED ME AS A FRIEND."

A CLEVER TRICK...



...LIKE THEIR RUMORS THAT THE WAR HAS ENDED, AND JAPAN HAS LOST. IF THE WAR WERE REALLY OVER, MY COMMANDER WOULD HAVE TOLD ME.

ONODA WENT BACK TO WAR.



AH, ANOTHER CLEVER RUSE.

IN THE 1950S, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SENT ENVOYS AND A BANNER BEARING THE SIGNATURES OF ONODA'S FAMILY, URGING HIM TO COME HOME.



IN 1959, THE GOVERNMENT SENT ONODA'S BROTHER TOSHIO.

HIROO, PLEASE, THE WAR IS OVER. NO ONE WILL HARM YOU. PLEASE COME HOME...

EXTREMELY CLEVER. THIS IMPOSTOR LOOKS AND SOUNDS JUST LIKE MY BROTHER.



ALL JAPANESE WOULD HAVE CHOSEN SUICIDE RATHER THAN SURRENDER. BUT I SEE JAPANESE. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NOT SURRENDERED. THE WAR CANNOT BE OVER, I MUST GO ON.

BY 1972, ONODA WAS THE ONLY WARRIOR LEFT.



THAT SAME YEAR, HE CAME UPON A MAN NAMED NORIO SUZUKI, WHO'D COME LOOKING FOR HIM.

DON'T KILL ME, OLD BUDDY. I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU HOME. LISTEN...

SUZUKI WAS CONVINCING.



I WOULD CONSIDER... SURRENDER... IF I WERE ORDERED TO BY MY COMMANDER.

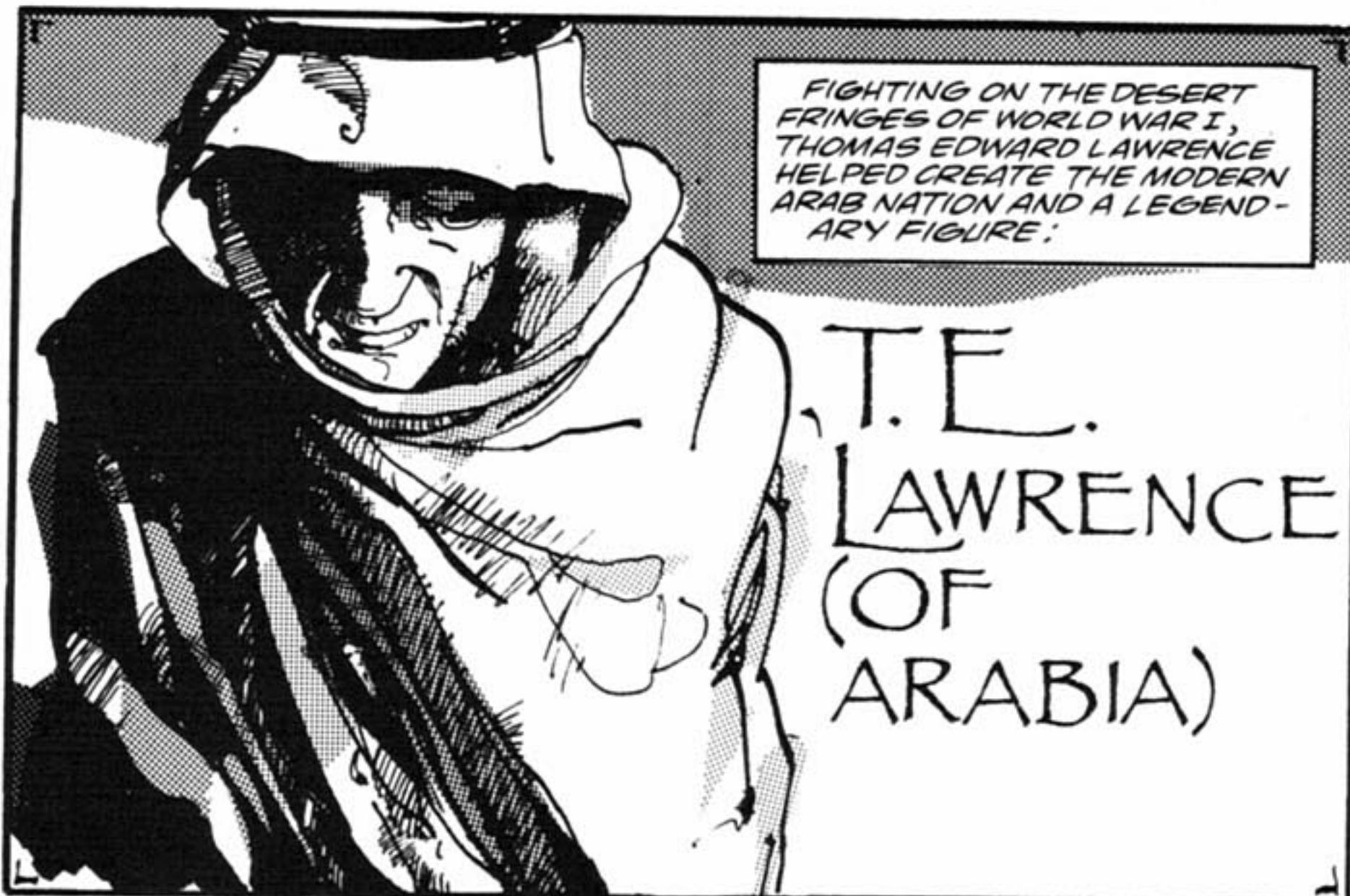
LEAVE IT TO ME, PAL.



SUZUKI FOUND A FORMER SUPERIOR OFFICER, YOSHIRO TANIGUCHI, FINALLY ORDERED TO SURRENDER. LIEUTENANT ONODA HANDED HIS SWORD TO A FILIPINO OFFICER ON MARCH 9, 1974.

THE 52-YEAR-OLD OFFICER HAD BEEN AT WAR FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS.









WHEN HE WASN'T EXCAVATING, HE WAS AMONG THE DESERT PEOPLE, LEARNING THEIR WAYS AND MANY LANGUAGES.

HE WAS PARTICULARLY ENAMORED WITH THE BEDOUIN WANDERERS, WHOM HE SAW AS OPPRESSED BY THE TURKS.



THE ENGLISH IS RIGHT, AHMED... WE ARE OPPRESSED EVEN AS WE WANDER...

ONE DAY, MY FRIENDS, ALLAH WILL FREE YOU.

ALLAH IS GREAT.



WHEN WORLD WAR I BROKE OUT, BRITAIN FOUND ITSELF FIGHTING TURKEY IN THE MIDDLE EAST--AND LAWRENCE FOUND HIMSELF AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN CAIRO.



HOW MANY TROOPS ARE YOU TURKS AMASSING, OSCAR? TELL THE TRUTH THIS TIME.

LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED. I SWEAR BY THE OLIVE GROVES OF MY GRANDMOTHER!

LAWRENCE WAS SOON BORED WITH INTERROGATING PRISONERS.



HE'D HEARD OF ARAB GUERRILLAS FIGHTING THE TURKS ALONG THE RED SEA, AND LONGED TO JOIN THEM.



BUT LOCKED AWAY IN HIS INTELLIGENCE OFFICE, HE COULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN CONTINUE HIS INTERROGATIONS...

ALL RIGHT, SIR-- TWO HUNDRED TROOPS. NOW, REMOVE YOUR HAND FROM THE FLAME!



SOON, THOUGH, HE HIT UPON AN IDEA...

WE MUST HELP THE ARAB REBELS, SIR.

WE MUST SHOW THEM WE'RE ON THEIR SIDE.

WELL, LIEUTENANT, AND HOW SHALL WE DO THAT?



SEND ME, SIR.

YOU, LAWRENCE?

AS AN IDEA, IT WAS BETTER THAN NOTHING. LAWRENCE WOULD JOIN THE ARAB REBELS.



AND BY THE WAY, LAWRENCE... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?

I PLAY WITH FIRE, SIR.





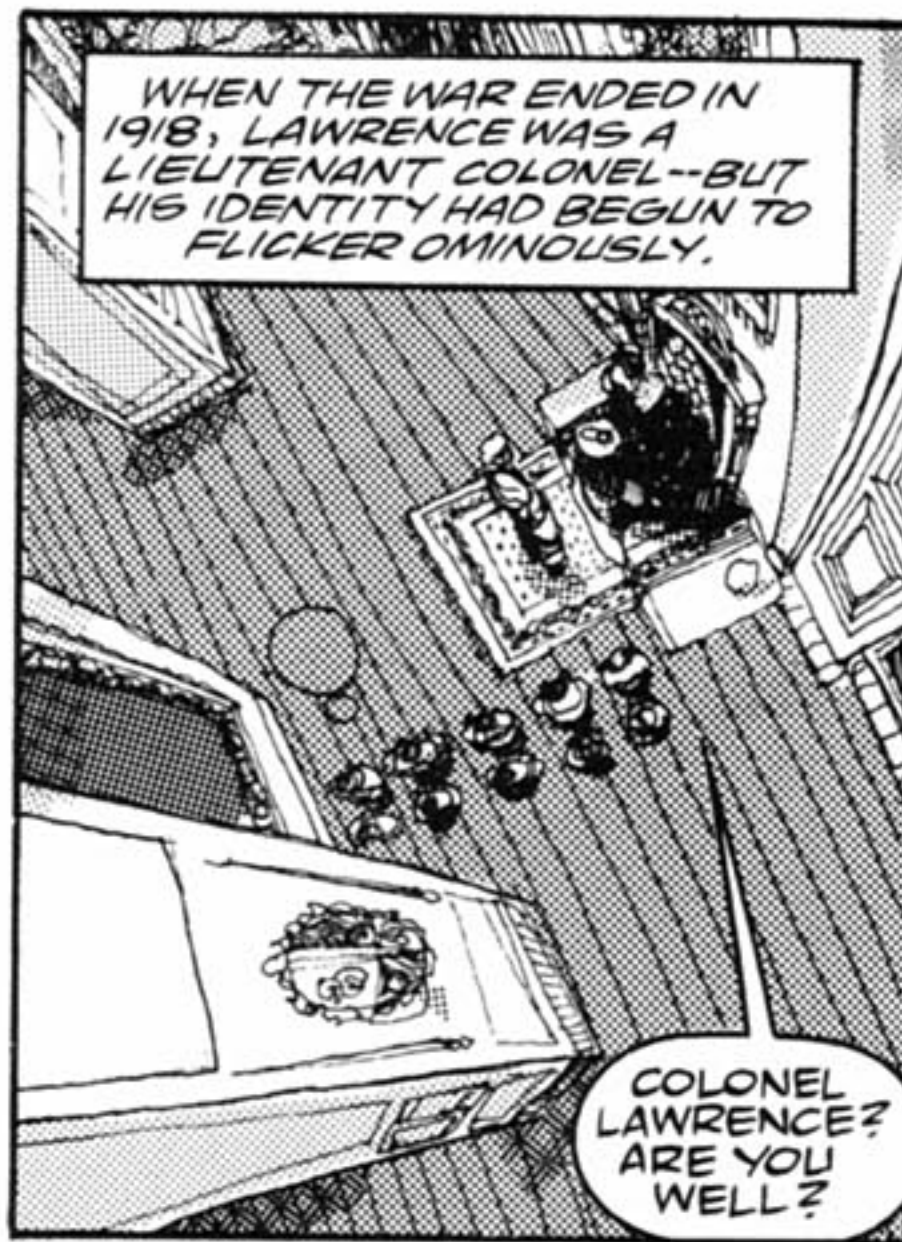








WHEN HE WAS RELEASED AND RETURNED TO BATTLE, LAWRENCE FOUGHT LIKE A ROBOT, SEEKING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EXHAUSTION ...AND, PERHAPS, DEATH.



WHEN THE WAR ENDED IN 1918, LAWRENCE WAS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL--BUT HIS IDENTITY HAD BEGUN TO FLICKER OMINOUSLY.

COLONEL LAWRENCE? ARE YOU WELL?



COLONEL LAWRENCE IS DEAD, YOUR HIGHNESS.

HE ABANDONED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER, THE ORDER OF THE BATH--AND HIMSELF.



IN 1923, HE ENLISTED IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AS JOHN HUME ROSS.



WHEN THE RAF DROPPED HIM, HE JOINED THE ROYAL TANK CORPS AS T.E. SHAW. LATER HE TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE R.A.F. HE WAS NEVER T.E. LAWRENCE AGAIN.



HE WROTE HIS MONUMENTAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY, SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM, AND REMAINED THE DARLING OF HIS ARISTOCRATIC ENGLISH FRIENDS. BUT HE LIVED AS THE LOWEST-RANKING AIRMAN, TENDING SEAPLANES...



...AND, PERHAPS, REMEMBERING HIS WAR IN THE DESERT.

IN 1935, AGED 46, LAWRENCE WAS RETIRED FROM THE R.A.F.



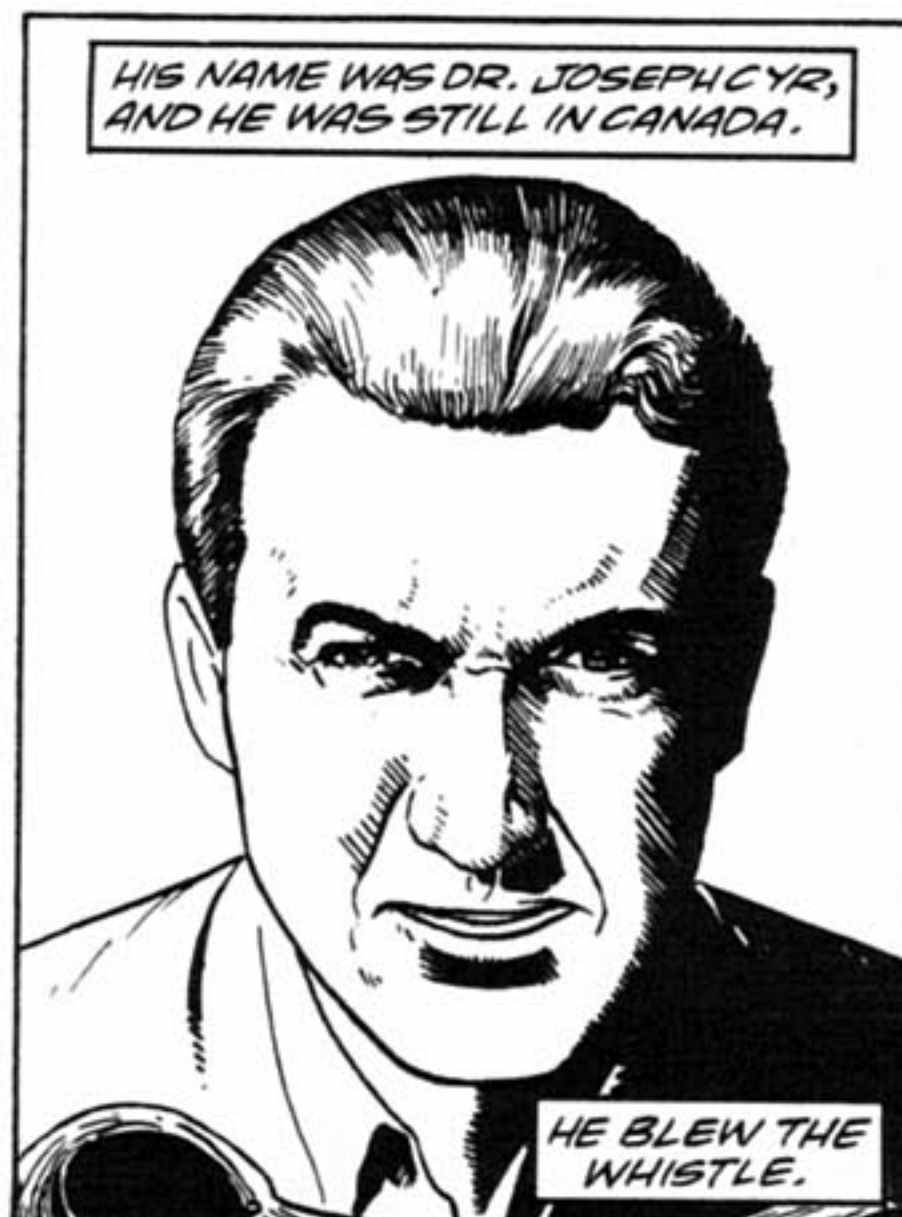
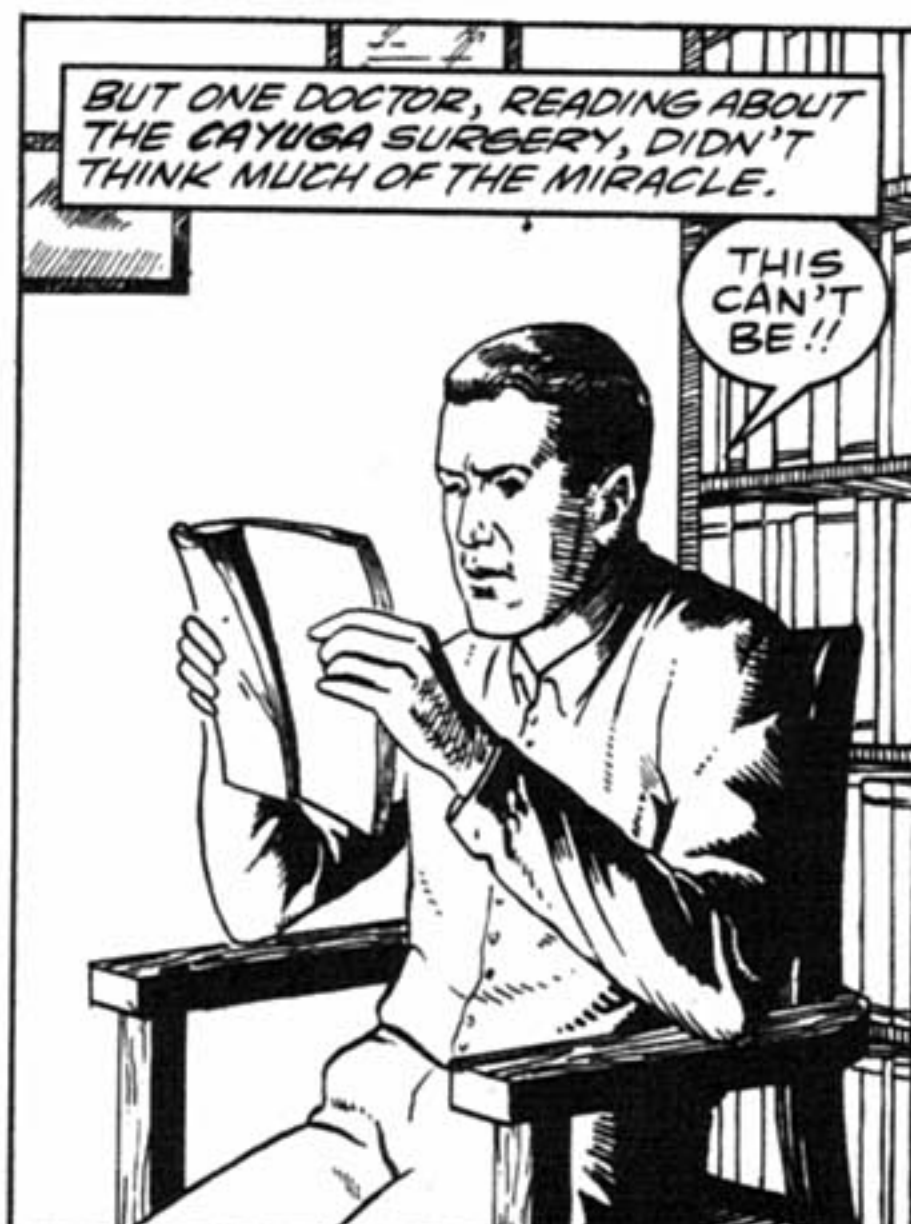
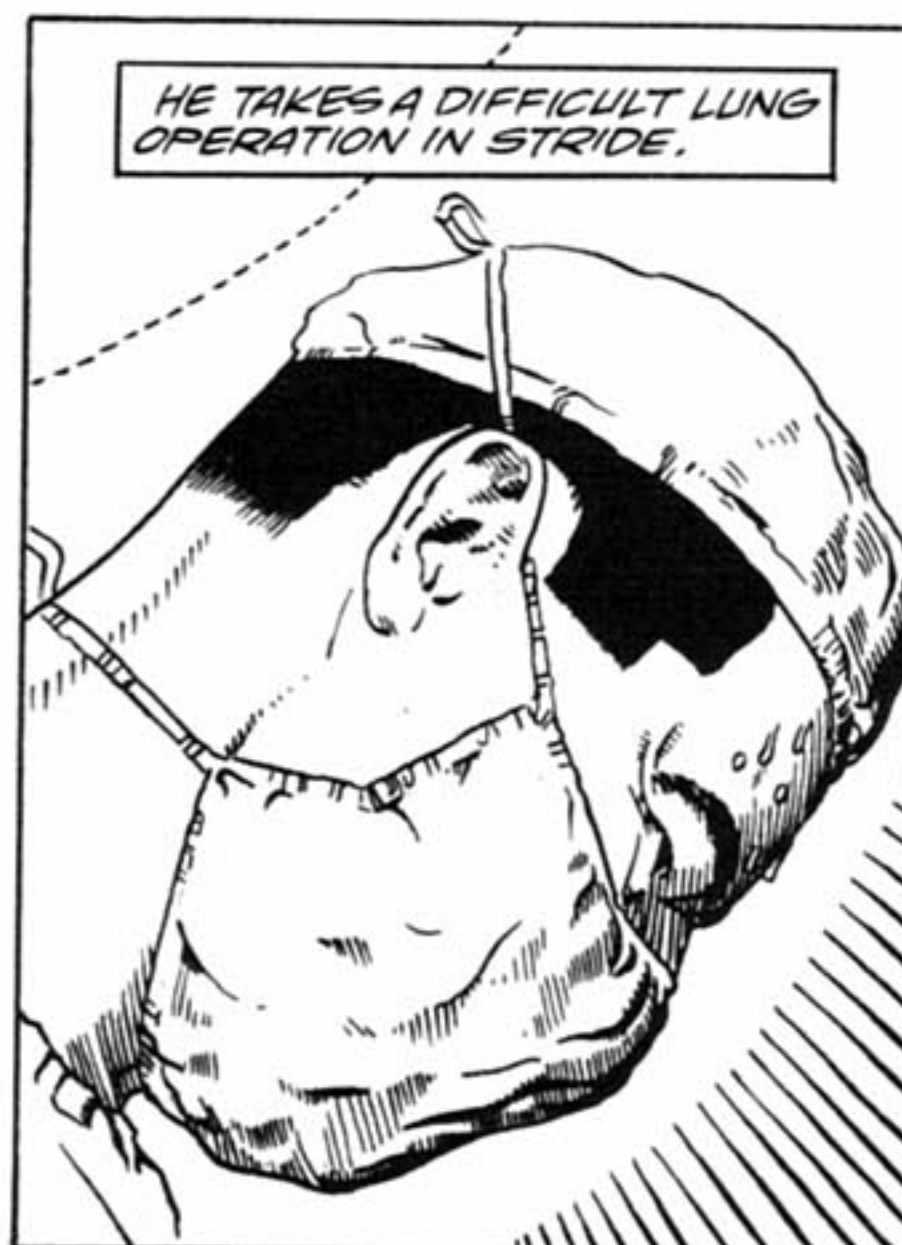
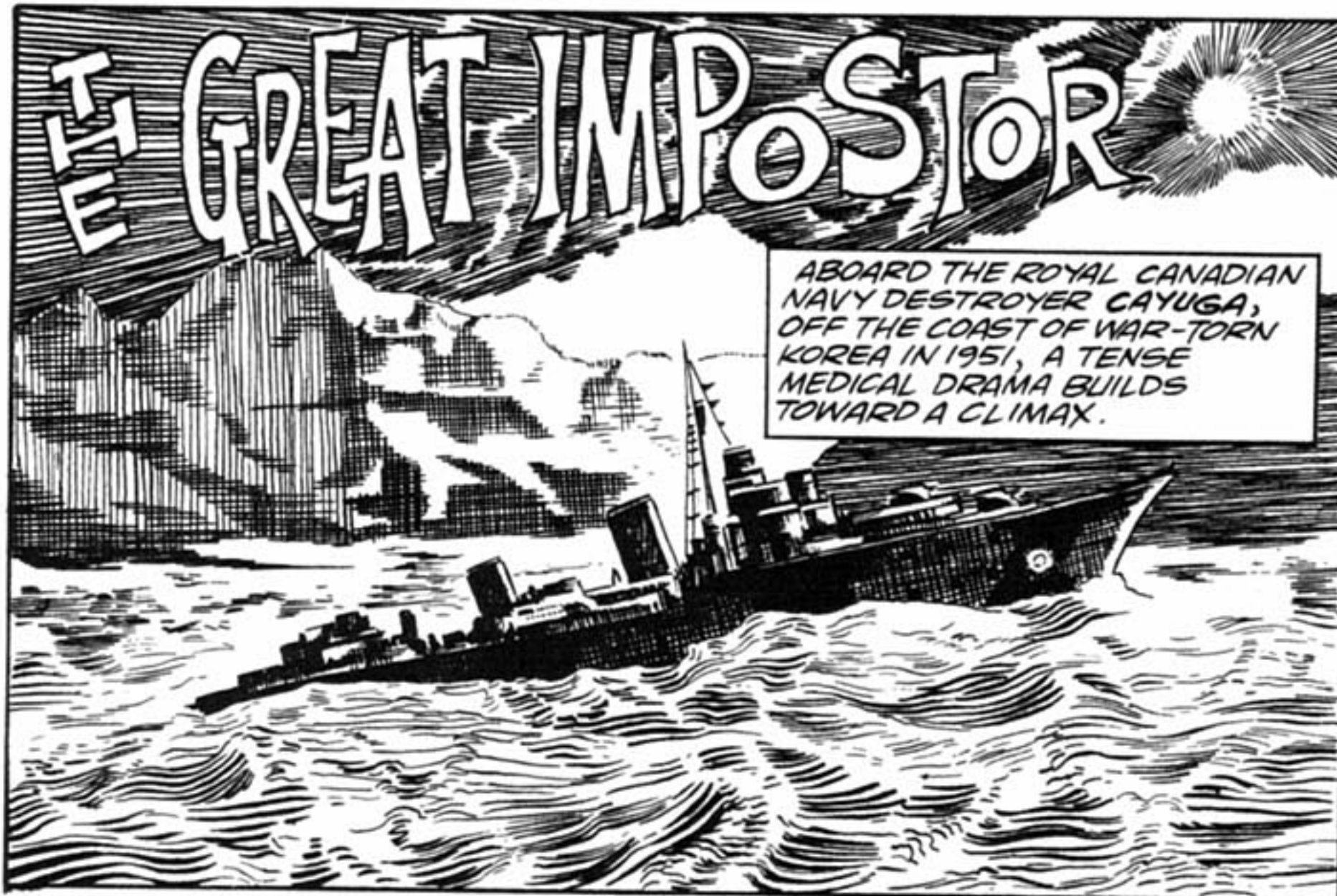
THERE IS SOMETHING BROKEN IN THE WORKS. MY WILL, I THINK,



THAT SAME YEAR HE HAD A FATAL MOTOR-CYCLE ACCIDENT...

...FACING, AT LONG LAST, A PAIN HE COULD NOT ENDURE.

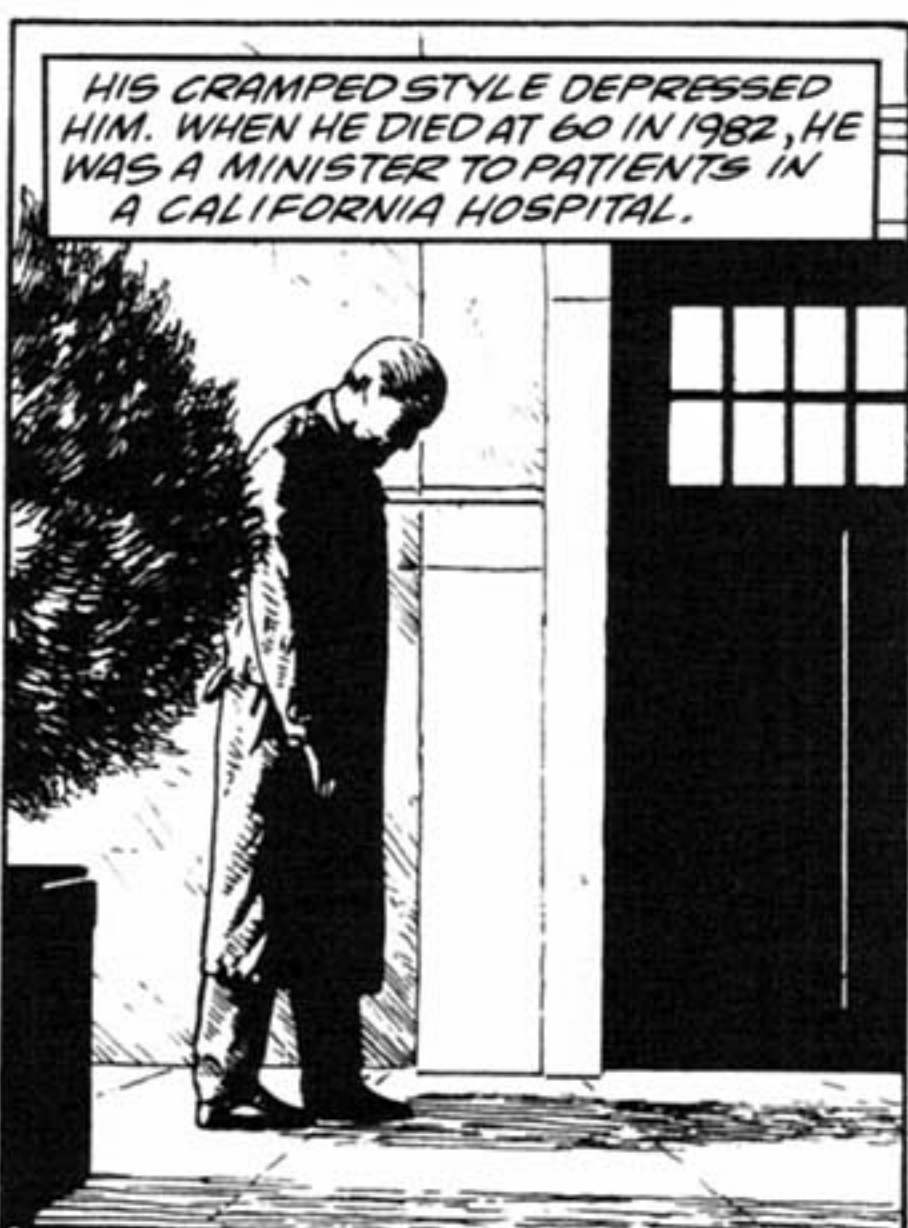
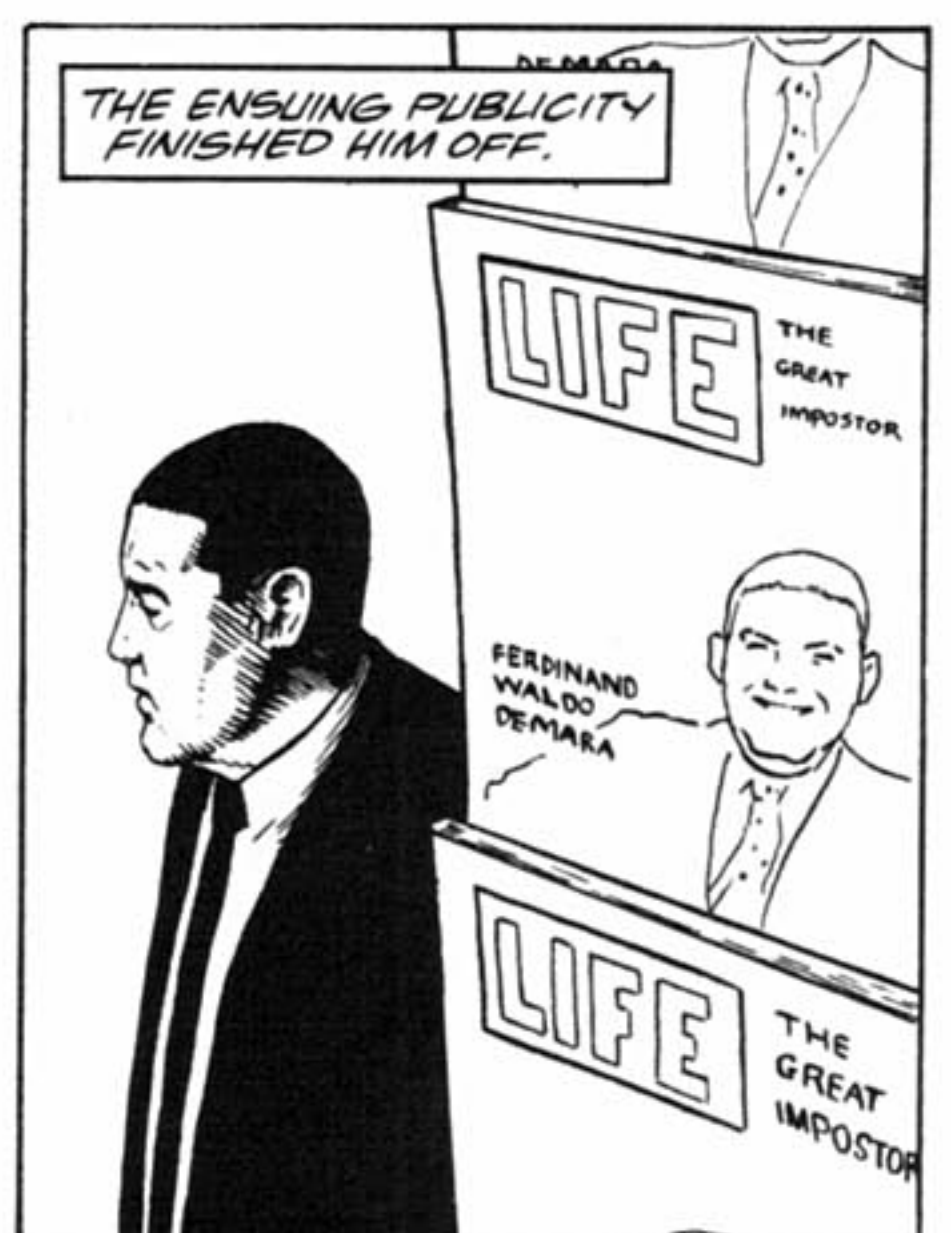














# IDI AMIN

KNOWN TO THE WESTERN PRESS AS BIG DADDY, UGANDA'S CLOWNISH STRONG-MAN WAS A POPULAR CHAP -- UNTIL HIS PEOPLE GOT TO KNOW HIM.



AMIN WAS BORN IN 1925 NEAR SUDAN, AND REARED BY HIS MOTHER, A LUGBARA WOMAN WHO PRACTICED WITCHCRAFT.



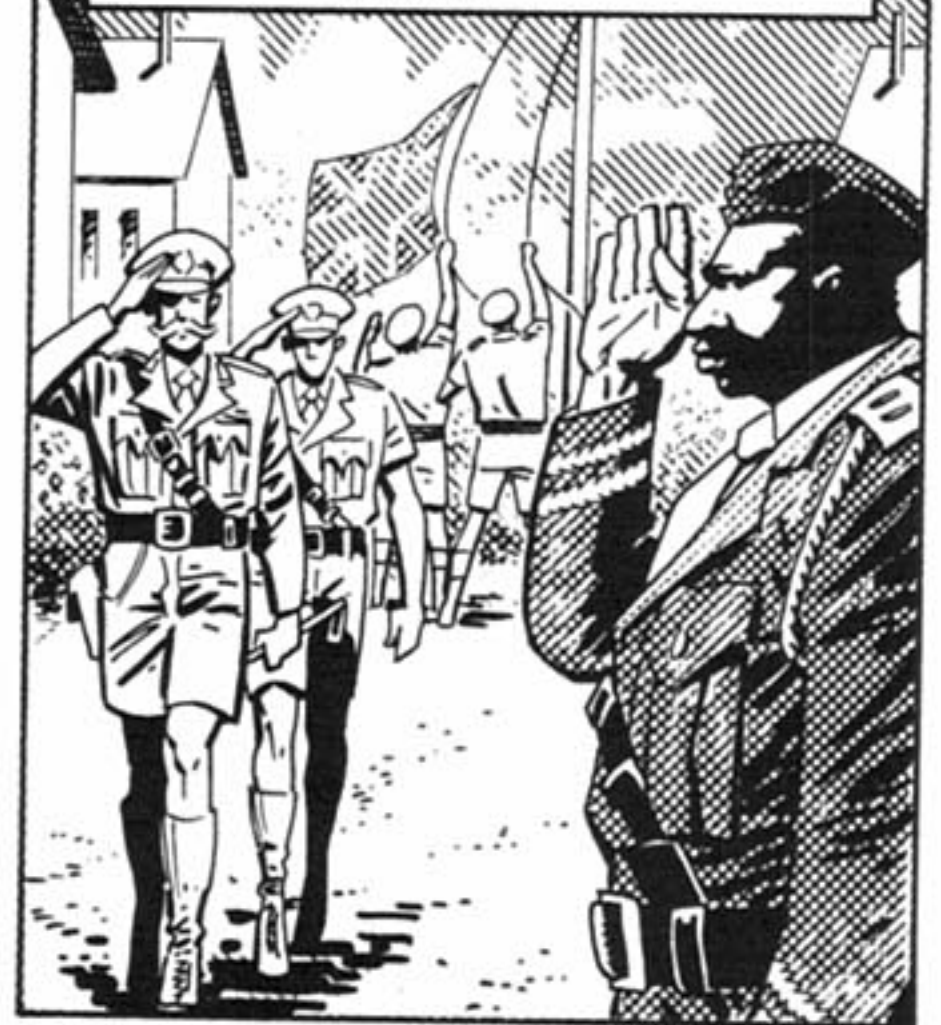
LIKE MANY A PEASANT'S SON, AMIN TOOK THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY AROUND: IN 1946 HE JOINED THE BRITISH COLONIAL ARMY AS AN ASSISTANT COOK.



AT SIX-FOUR AND 240 POUNDS, AMIN FOUND A VOCATION IN THE RING AND WAS UNDEFEATED NATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP FOR NINE YEARS.



WHEN THE BRITISH DEPARTED IN 1962, THEY HAD HIGH -- IF CONDESCENDING -- PRAISE FOR AMIN.



IDI WAS A SPLENDID CHAP, THOUGH A BIT SHORT OF THE GREY MATTER.

AYE, JUST A WEE BIT.



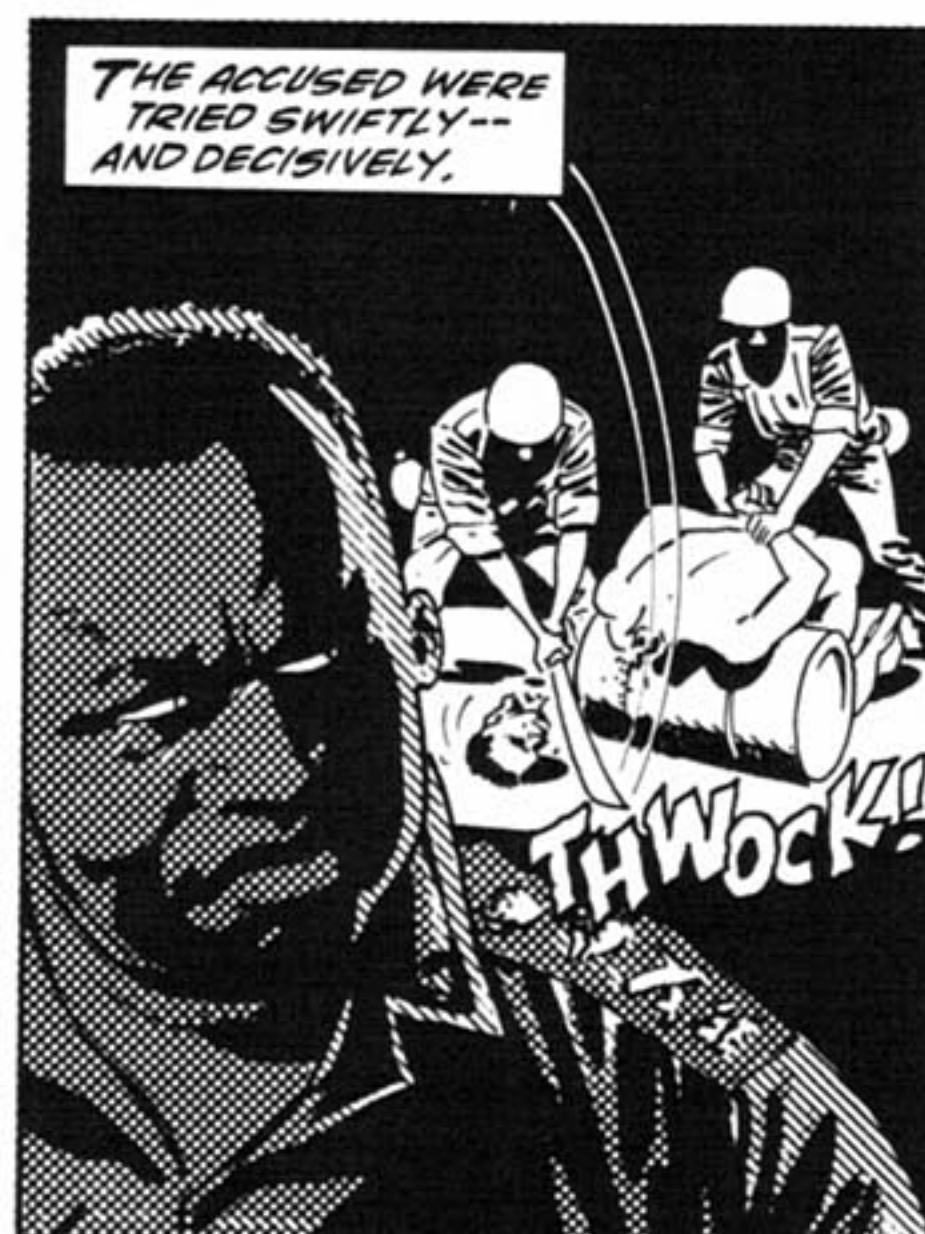
AS ONE OF ONLY TWO OFFICERS IN UGANDA'S ARMY, AMIN WAS GUARANTEED RAPID ADVANCEMENT.



WHEN MILTON OBOTE TOOK POWER AFTER INDEPENDENCE, AMIN BECAME THE ARMY'S CHIEF OF STAFF.









THE PURGE SWEEPED UP THE COUNTRY'S CHIEF JUSTICE AND EVEN CABINET MINISTERS.



HE ADDED 15,000 THUGS TO THE GOVERNMENT ROLLS.



THOUSANDS DIED BECAUSE HIS GOONS WANTED THEIR PROPERTY.



THE TERROR CONTINUED. BODIES WERE FOUND WITH THEIR LIVERS, NOSES, GENITALS, AND EYES MISSING.



PEOPLE SAID THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE FORCED TO BLUDGEON THEIR FELLOWS--OFTEN WITH HELP FROM AMIN.



BUT AMIN'S LIFE SEEMED CHARMED. HE SURVIVED 22 ATTEMPTS TO KILL HIM.



FINALLY HE STUMBLED. HE ATTACKED NEIGHBORING TANZANIA AND LOST.



DEFEAT FORCED HIM INTO EXILE IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE HE REMAINS TO THIS DAY.



HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS WERE ALL ONE WOULD EXPECT...

CHRIKEE, JUST LOOK 'ERE!

...IN THE PLAYROOM OF A DERANGED, SADISTIC CHILD.





# CHAPTER THREE

## ODDLY GODLY

### EVANGELISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS

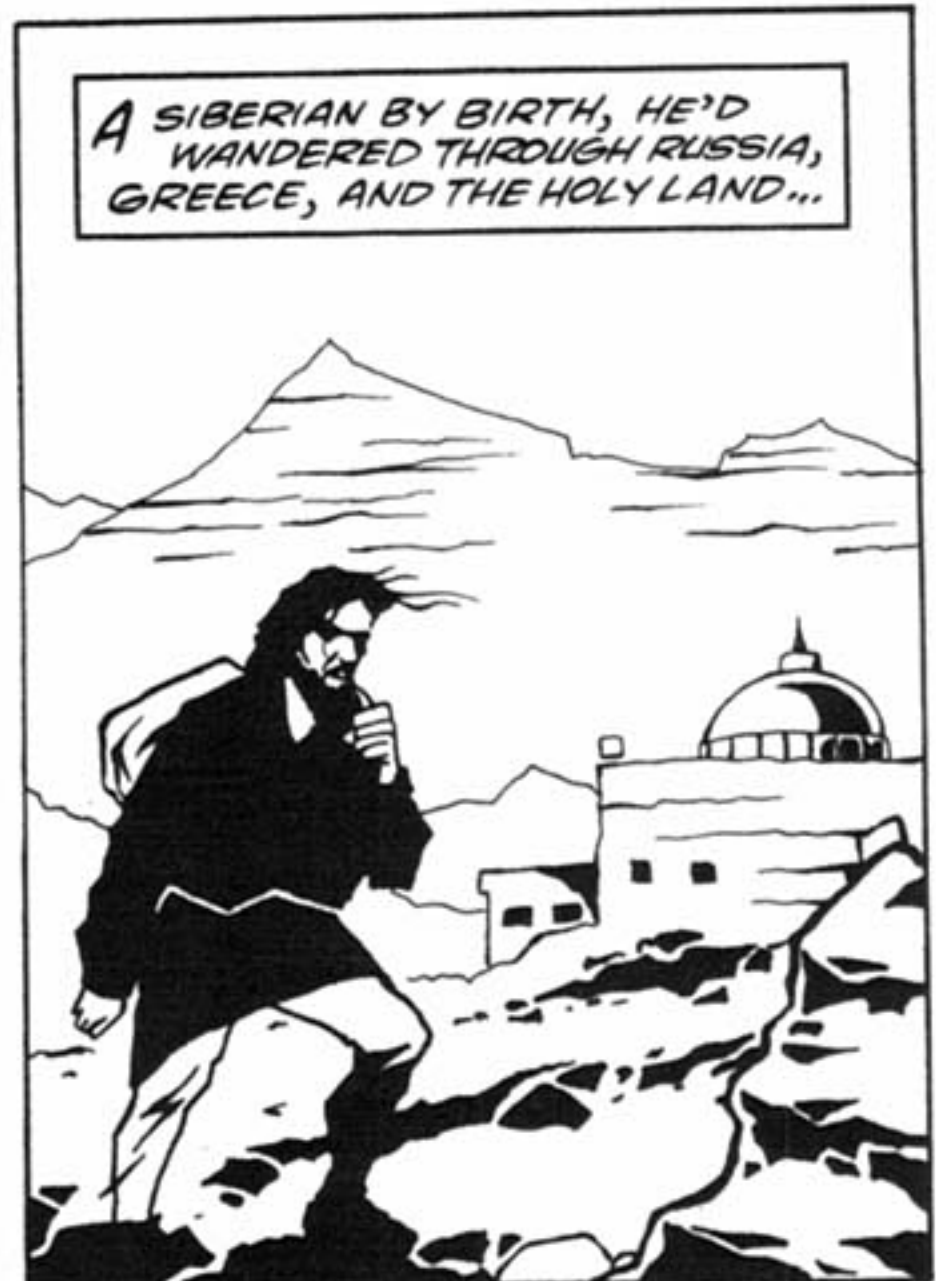
“God told me to do it,” is the psychotic’s first defense — but it’s a defense that seldom, if ever, convinces. Juries, and folks in general, never believe that God instructs the actions of truly evil weirdos. Satan, however, is another story. Lots of folks believed Aleister Crowley (*page 63*) when he said he had a direct line to the Lord of Darkness — but God? No way. To convince people you’ve got the ear of the Lord, you’ve got to be pure and righteous and honest and spiritual — or at least, like many of the weirdos considered in this section, know how to fake it. Then again, some spiritual weirdos took another approach entirely — like Wilhelm Reich, who dropped the religious pretense altogether and created his own god of sexual energy. Nice work, if you can get it.





# RASPUTIN

GRIGORY YEFIMOVICH NOVIKH, A HOLY MAN WITH A REPUTATION FOR HEALING AND A STRANGE KIND OF PERSONAL MAGNETISM, CAME TO THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL OF ST. PETERSBURG (THEN CALLED PETROGRAD) IN 1903.



A SIBERIAN BY BIRTH, HE'D WANDERED THROUGH RUSSIA, GREECE, AND THE HOLY LAND...



...AND FOLLOWED THE TEACHINGS OF THE KHLYSTY MONKS. KHLYSTY MEANS FLAGELLANTS.



THEY TAUGHT THAT CONTRITION BROUGHT CLOSENESS TO GOD...



...AND THAT THE SHORTEST PATH TO CONTRITION WAS SIN. LOTS OF IT, FOLLOWED BY A LITTLE FLAGELLATION.



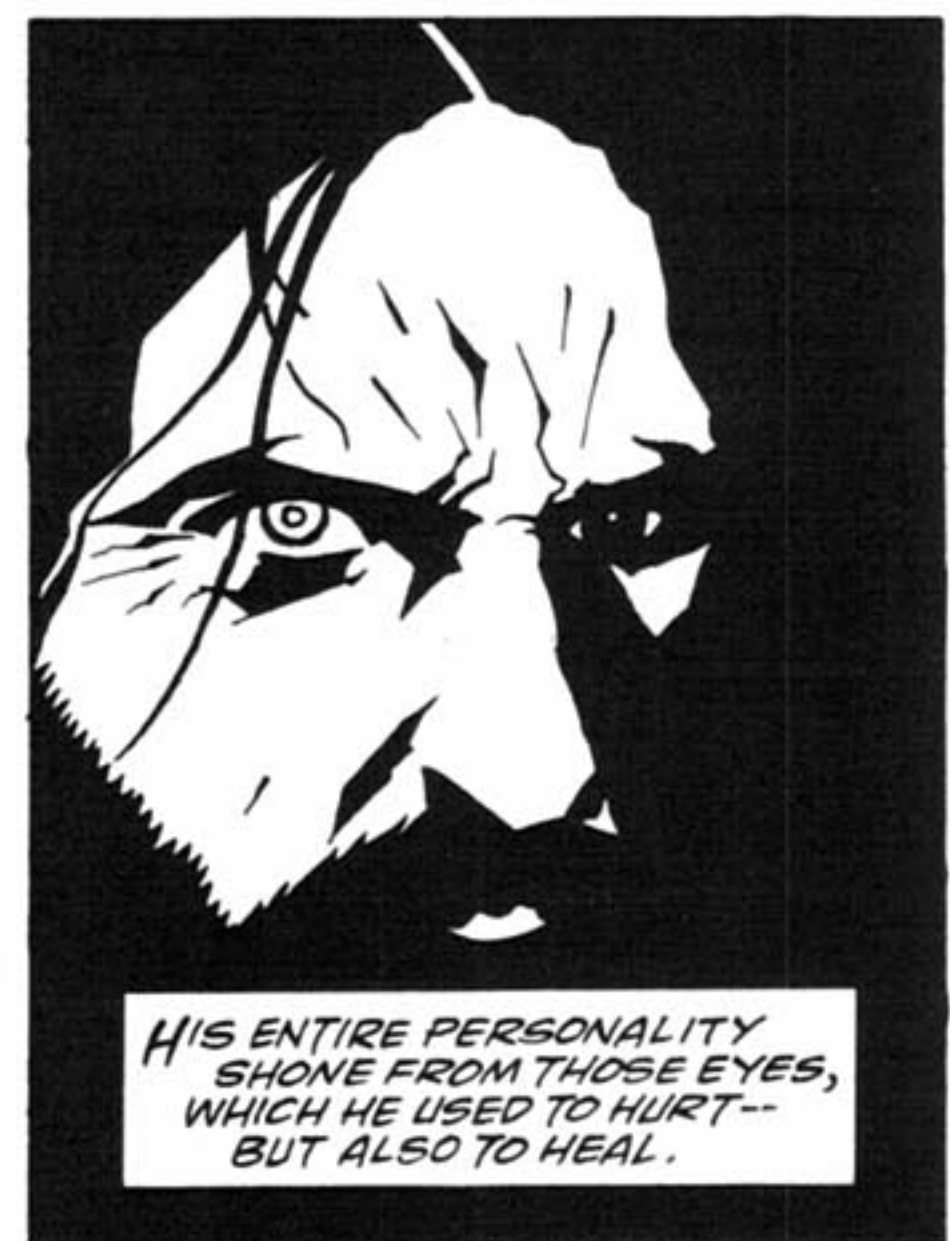
BECAUSE HE PURSUED CONTRITION WITH SUCH ZEAL, GRIGORY WAS GIVEN THE NAME RASPUTIN -- "DEBAUCHED ONE".

IT WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO GOD, TRUST ME.



Ugh! HE'S SO FILTHY, AND HE SMELLS LIKE A GOAT!

BUT... THOSE EYES...



HIS ENTIRE PERSONALITY SHONE FROM THOSE EYES, WHICH HE USED TO HURT-- BUT ALSO TO HEAL.





IN 1905, RASPUTIN WAS SUMMONED TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE, WHERE A TERRIBLE FAMILY SECRET WAS UNFOLDING.

YOU SENT FOR ME, SIRE?



YOUNG ALEXIS, HEIR TO THE THRONE, HAD HEMOPHILIA. A SCRATCH COULD BE FATAL, AND HE WAS OFTEN IN TERRIBLE PAIN.



RASPUTIN EASED THE BOY'S PAIN...

THERE, HE WILL SLEEP NOW.



... AND WON THE UNDYING GRATITUDE OF HIS PARENTS, ESPECIALLY THE EMPRESS ALEXANDRA.

HE IS... A SAINT.



THE LIFE OF YOUR HEIR... YOUR DYNASTY... IS LINKED TO ME NOW.



AFTER RULING RUSSIA FOR SOME 300 YEARS, THE ROMANOV'S HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY AN ILLITERATE SIBERIAN MONK.

A SAINT.



AWAY FROM THE PALACE, RASPUTIN CONTINUED TO PURSUE CONTRITION.



AT COURT, HE EASED THE SUFFERING OF ALEXIS AND THE EMPRESS ALEXANDRA.

THE LITTLE ONE WILL NOT DIE. DO NOT ALLOW THE DOCTORS TO BOTHER HIM TOO MUCH.

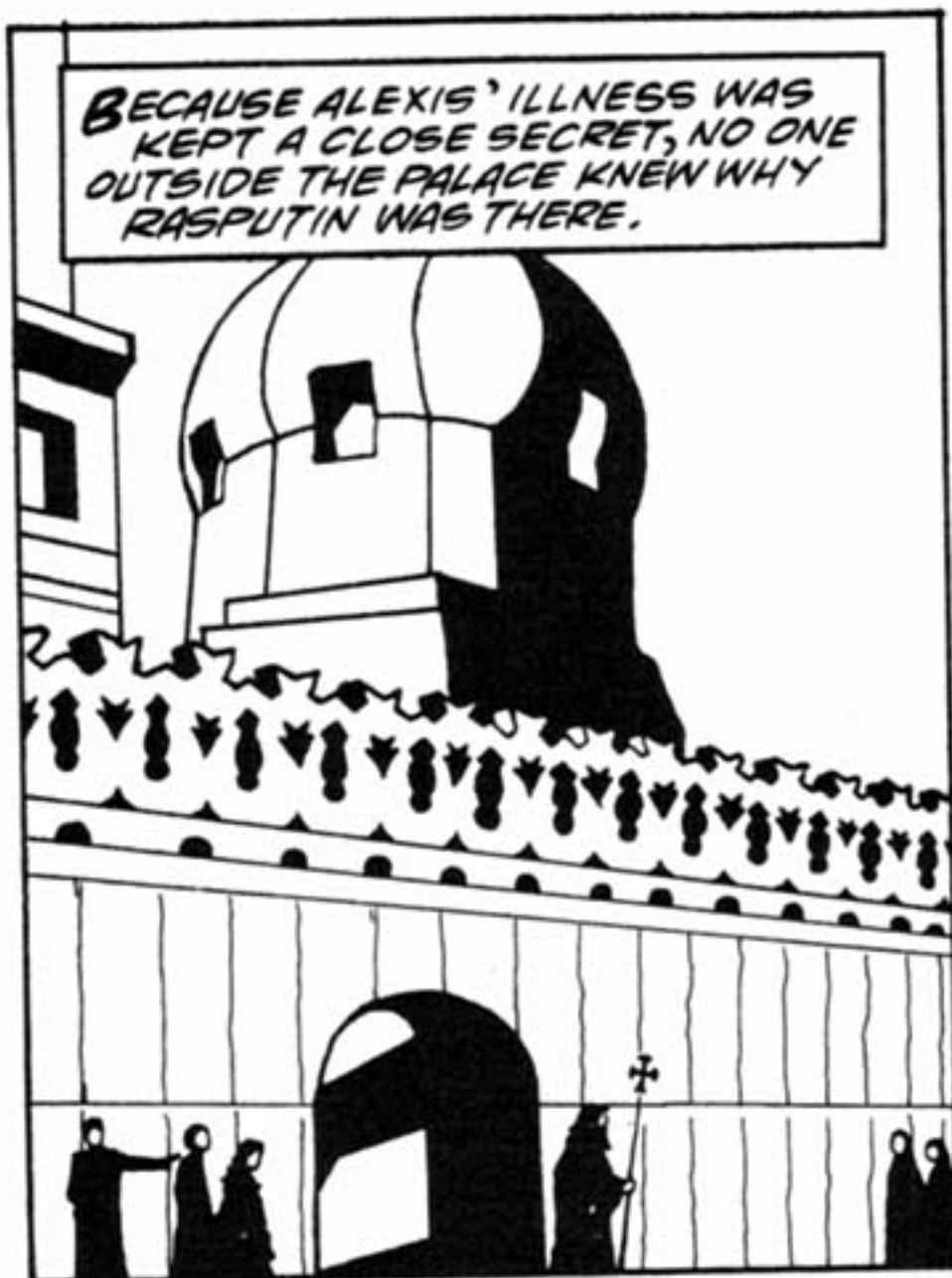


THE EMPRESS DISMISSED REPORTS OF RASPUTIN'S LICENTIOUS BEHAVIOR.

SAINTS ARE OFTEN CALUMNIATED. HE IS HATED BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM.

STILL, PEOPLE HAD BEGUN TO TALK.









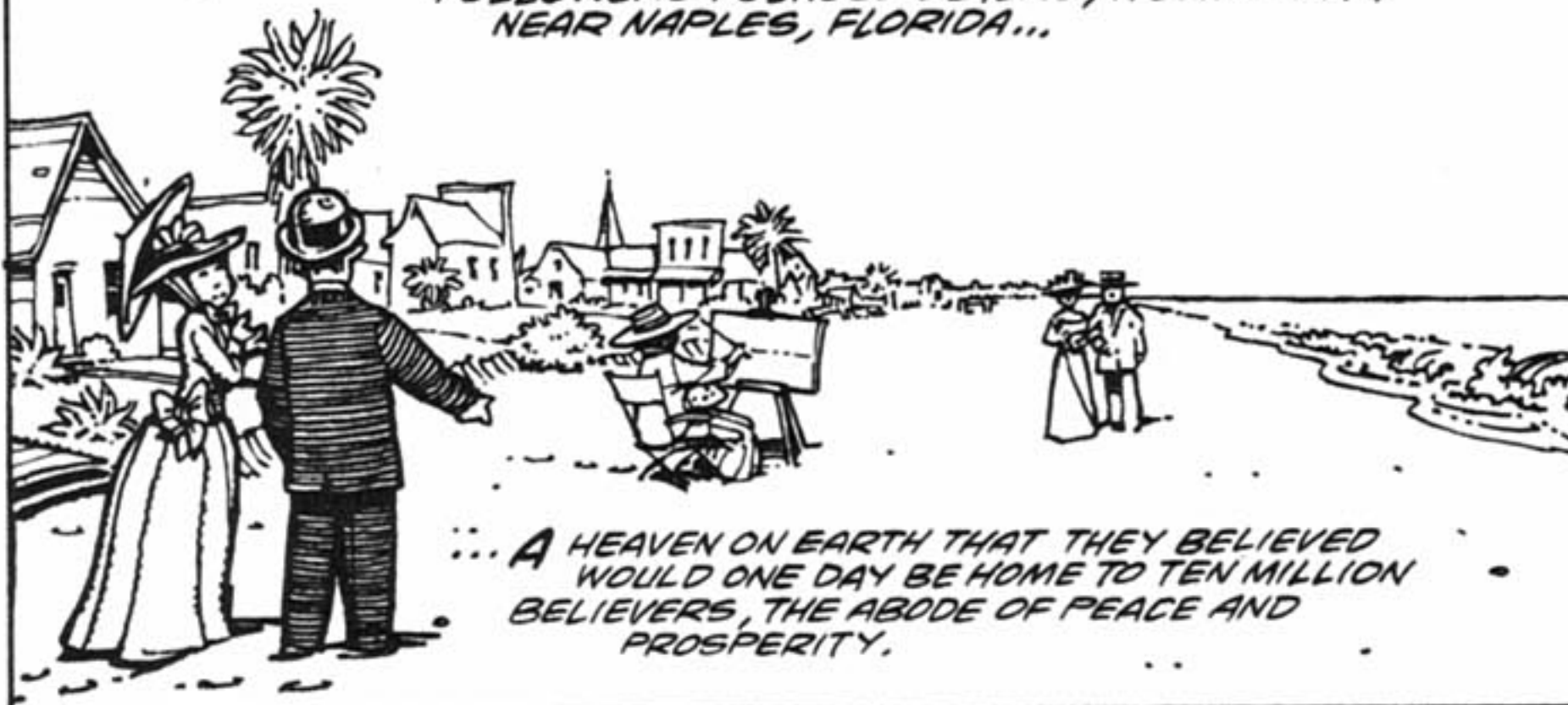






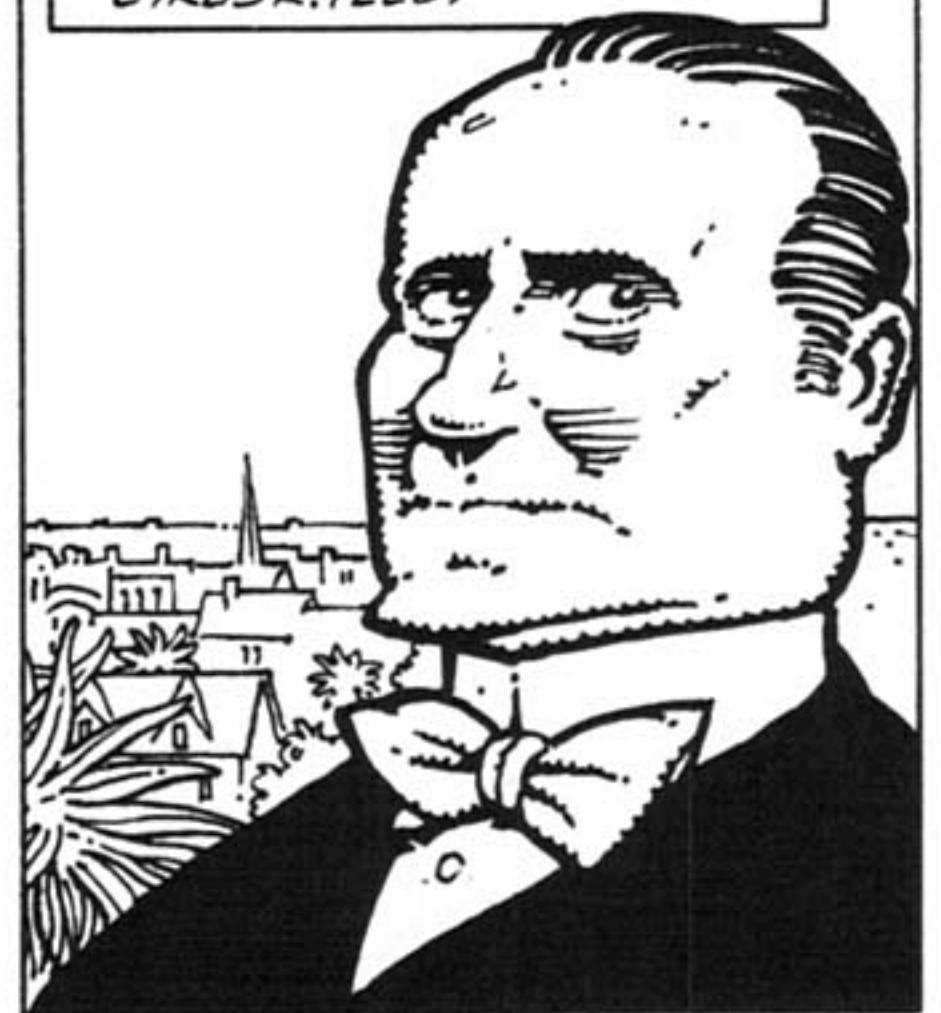
# CYRUS R. TEED

IN THE LATE 1890S, A STERN LITTLE MAN AND HIS FOLLOWERS FOUNDED ESTERO, A COMMUNITY NEAR NAPLES, FLORIDA...



... A HEAVEN ON EARTH THAT THEY BELIEVED WOULD ONE DAY BE HOME TO TEN MILLION BELIEVERS, THE ABODE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

THEIR CHARISMATIC LEADER: AN UPSTATE NEW YORKER IN HIS LATE 50S NAMED CYRUS R. TEED.



LONG A SCIENTIFIC DABBLER IN THE EXTRAORDINARY, HIS WORK ON WHAT HE CALLED "ELECTRO-ALCHEMICAL RESEARCH..."



CY-RUS TEED...

WHA--?

...LED HIM ONE NIGHT INTO A TINGLING TRANCE AND A VISION.

THE DIVINE MOTHERHOOD!

YES, CYRUS, I BRING SOME BIG NEWS...



YOU ARE THE MESSIAH!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED.



NOW IT'S UP TO YOU, CY.

I SHALL APPLY MY SCIENCE TO REDEEMING HUMANITY!



I SHALL TAKE THE HEBREW NAME FOR CYRUS: KORESH!\*

\*NO RELATION TO DAVID.



BUT FIRST HE WOULD HAVE TO RID THE WORLD OF SOME REALLY DUMB IDEAS, SUCH AS THE COPERNICAN NONSENSE THAT THE EARTH MOVED ABOUT THE SUN.

...OR THAT WE LIVE ON THE SURFACE OF A SPINNING BALL IN SPACE.





TEED BELIEVED THAT CONVENTIONAL COSMOLOGY WAS A FARCE...

...AND THAT HE KNEW WHAT THE UNIVERSE WAS REALLY LIKE.

TEED'S COSMOS WAS CONTAINED IN A SINGLE GOLD-PLATED SPHERE...

...ABOUT 8,000 MILES IN DIAMETER AND ABOUT 25,000 MILES IN CIRCUMFERENCE.

ALMOST EXACTLY THE SIZE OF THE SO-CALLED PLANET EARTH, AS A MATTER OF FACT.

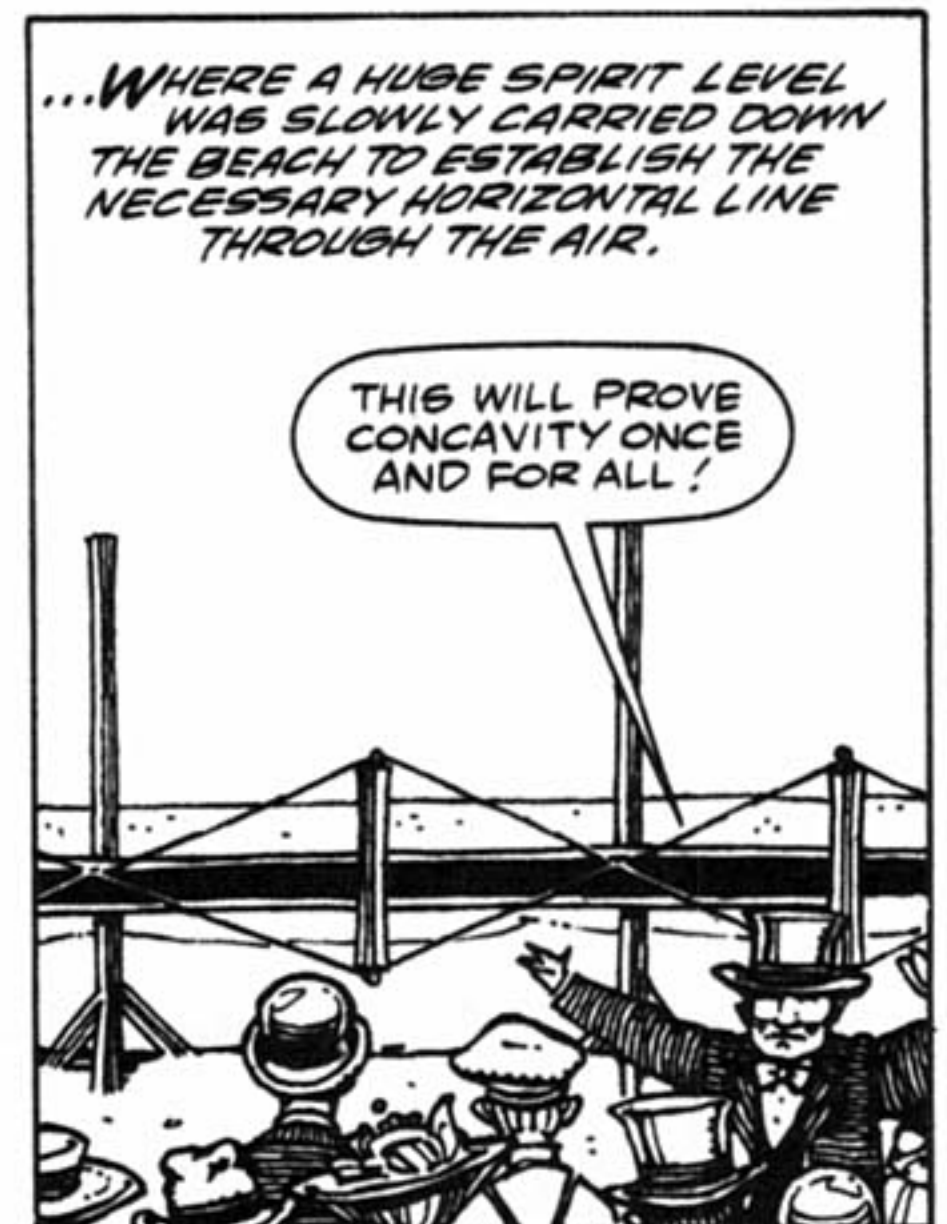
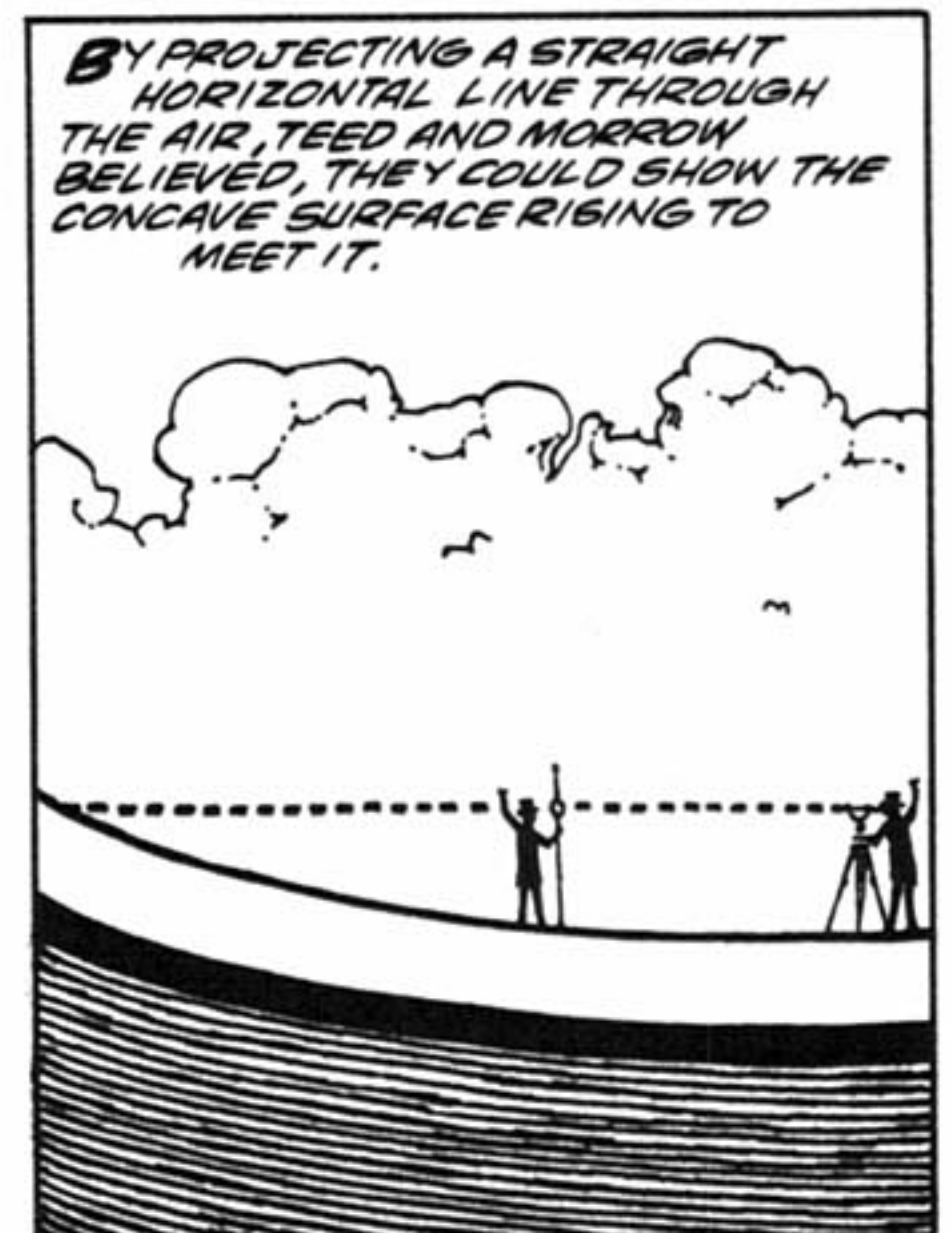
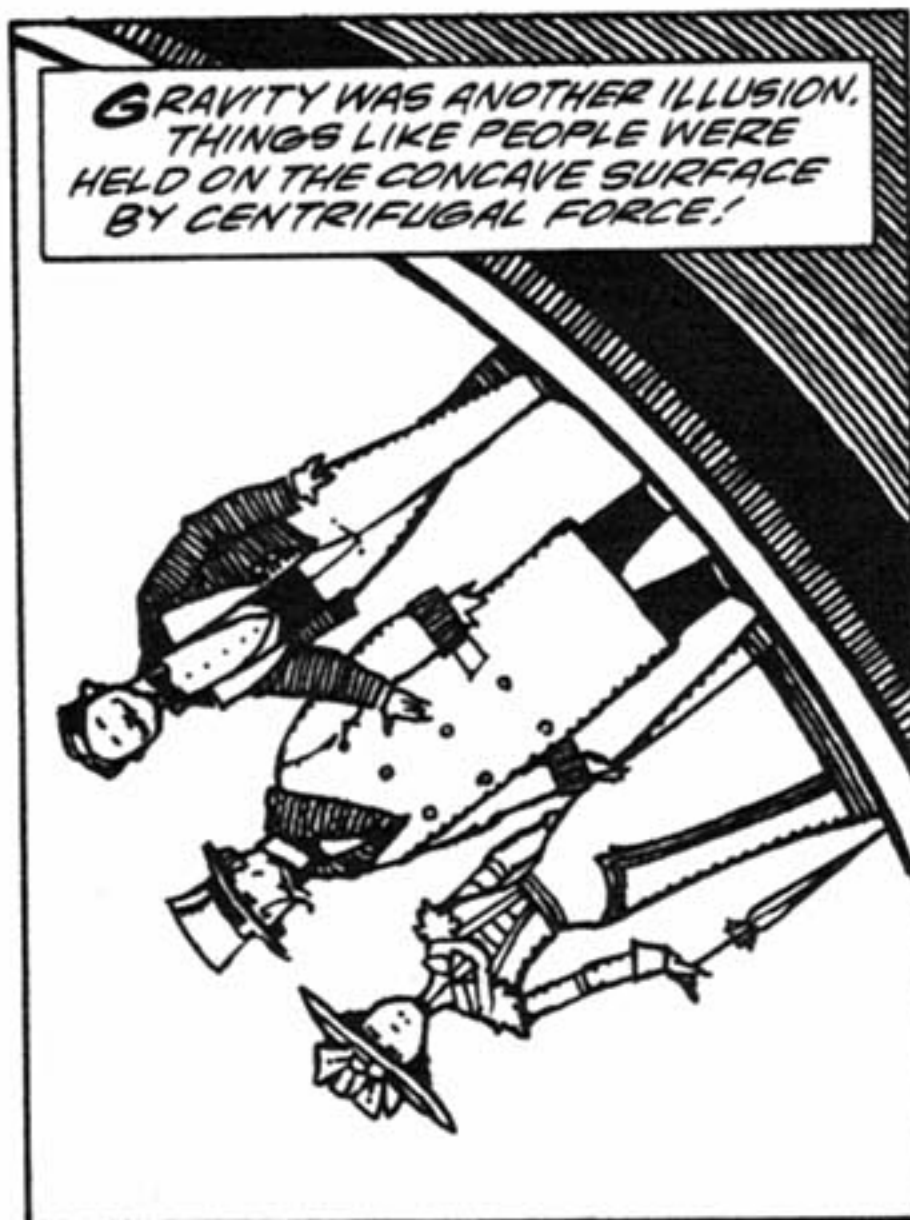
THE BALL WAS HOLLOW...

...AND ON ITS INNER SURFACE LAY THE OCEANS, CONTINENTS, ATMOSPHERE, EVERYTHING WE SEE IN THE NATURAL WORLD.

HUGE NATURAL BATTERIES POWERED THE UNIVERSE. THE SUN AND STARS WERE REFLECTIONS OF ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES FROM THE BATTERIES -- ILLUSIONS!

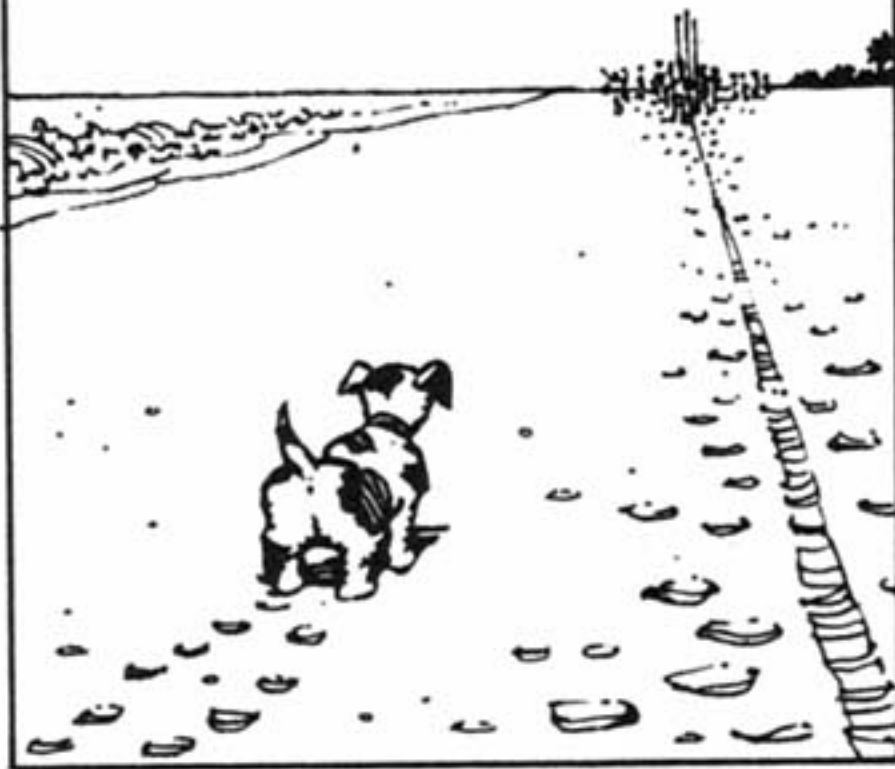
OUTSIDE THE CELL WAS NOTHING -- THE VOID. TEED CALLED HIS THEORY OF A NUTSHELL UNIVERSE "CELLULAR COSMOLOGY."







IN SOMETHING OVER A MONTH,  
THEY ESTABLISHED A LINE  
FOUR AND ONE-EIGHTH MILES  
LONG.



EUREKA!  
LOOK WHERE  
THE GROUND  
MEETS OUR  
LINE!



OF COURSE, DETRACTORS  
SAID THE KORESHANTISTS  
HAD MERELY SEEN WHAT THEY'D  
WANTED TO SEE.

THAT'S WHAT I SAID...  
\$100,000 TO ANYONE  
WHO PROVES WE'RE  
WRONG.



THE LITTLE KORESHAN UNITY  
SETTLEMENT KEPT ITS  
MOTTO:

"WE LIVE INSIDE."



OUTSIDE, THEY BEGAN TO  
DOMINATE LOCAL POLITICS.

REMEMBER, A  
VOTE FOR OUR  
CANDIDATE IS A  
VOTE FOR TRUTH!



THERE WERE NO TAKERS, BUT  
NOT BECAUSE TEED WAS  
RIGHT. THE GEOMETRY OF  
HIS OUTSIDE-IN WORLD WAS  
THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE  
REAL, INSIDE-OUT ONE. WHAT  
PROVED ONE WOULD ALSO  
PROVE THE OTHER.



IN 1906, AN ENRAGED VOTER  
SLUGGED THE MESSIAH IN  
THE FACE.



TEED NEVER FULLY RECOVERED  
FROM THE INSULT.

TWO YEARS LATER, HE DIED.  
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, SINCE  
THE MESSIAH DID NOT RISE,  
HEALTH OFFICIALS ORDERED  
TEED BURIED.

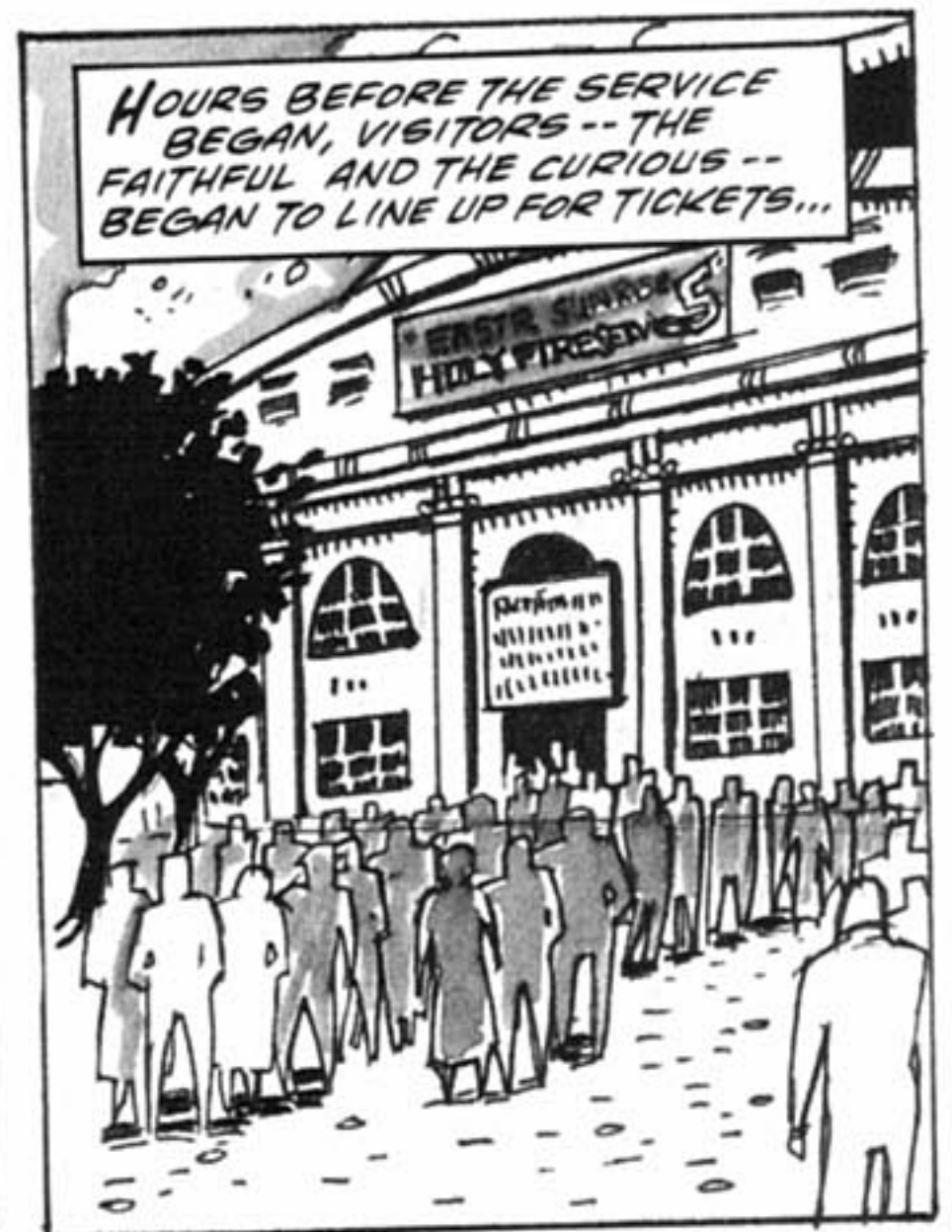


THEN, THIRTEEN YEARS LATER,  
A HURRICANE SWEEP TEED'S  
REMAINS OUT TO SEA.



CALL IT "AN ACT OF GOD!"















# GEORGES IVANOVICH GURDJIEFF,

ARMENIAN MYSTIC, SCoured THE WORLD TO TAP THE ENORMOUS, SECRET RESOURCES HIDDEN IN THE HUMAN BRAIN--AND, MANY BELIEVE, FOUND AVENUES TO EXTRAORDINARY MENTAL POWER. INDEED, TO SOME, HE MAY HAVE SEEMED INDESTRUCTIBLE...



Hmm, ZE OLD MAN FINALLY DIED AFTER ALL.

QUELLE OLD MAN?



"THAT ACCIDENT I HAD FIVE MONTHS AGO? I TOTALLED A LITTLE COUPE."

MON DIEU!

"I KNEW I HAD KILLED THE DRIVER."



"BUT THIS LITTLE OLD MAN GOT OUT... AND WALKED AWAY."



"I FOLLOWED HIM."

WHY WASN'T HE KILLED?

YOU'LL FIND OUT.



SO... WHO WAS HE?

GEORGES GURDJIEFF, THAT'S WHO.



GURDJIEFF? GURDJIEFF? NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

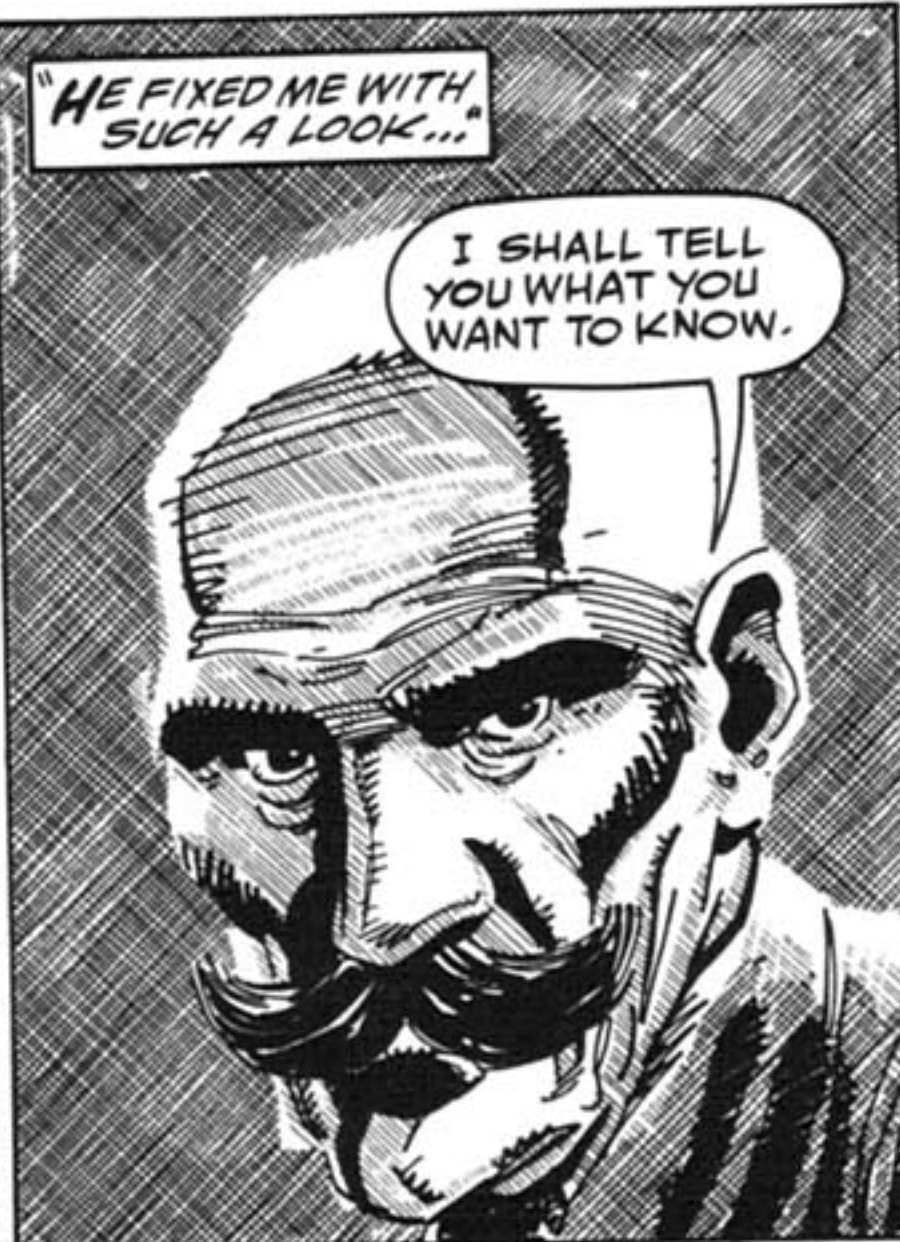


HE WAS LIKE... LIKE A MESSIAH.

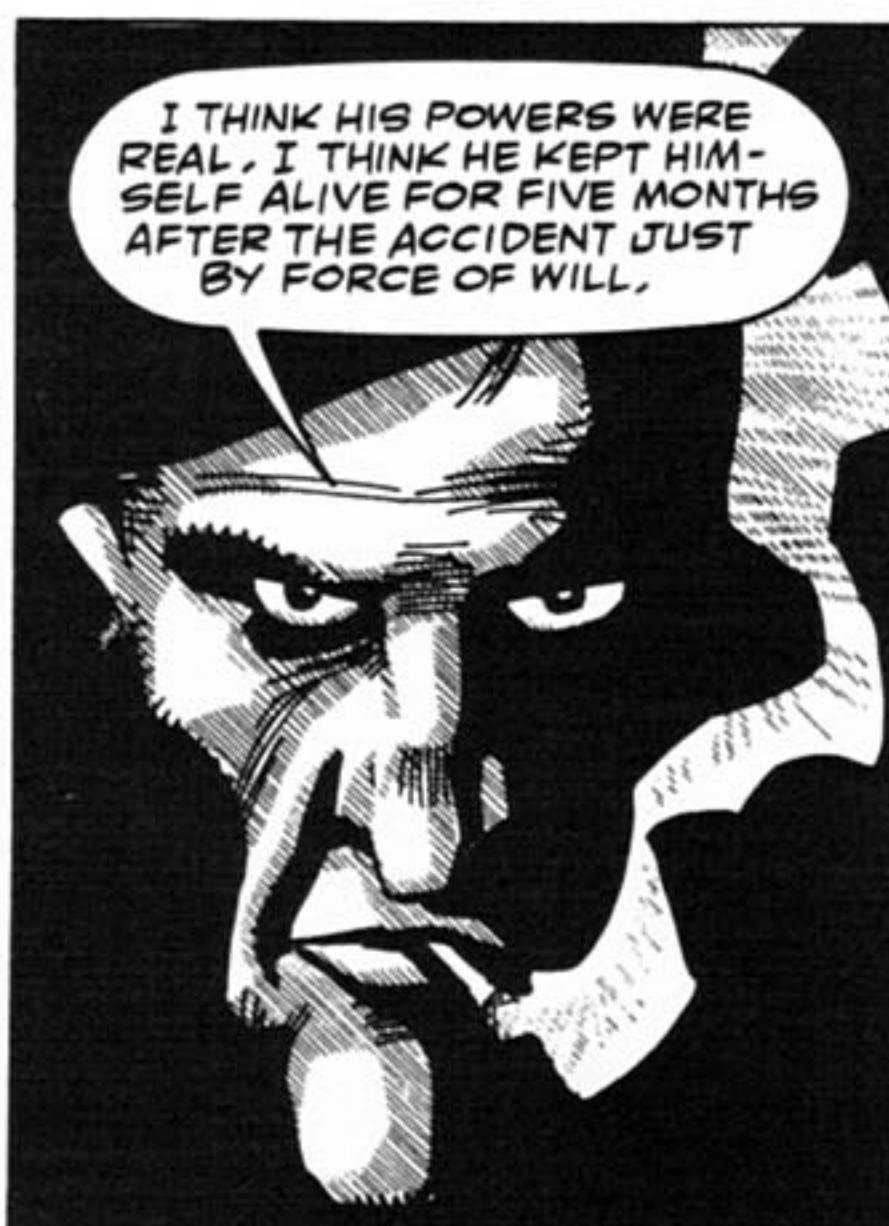
IT SOUNDS LIKE RUBBISH TO ME.

IT WOULD.

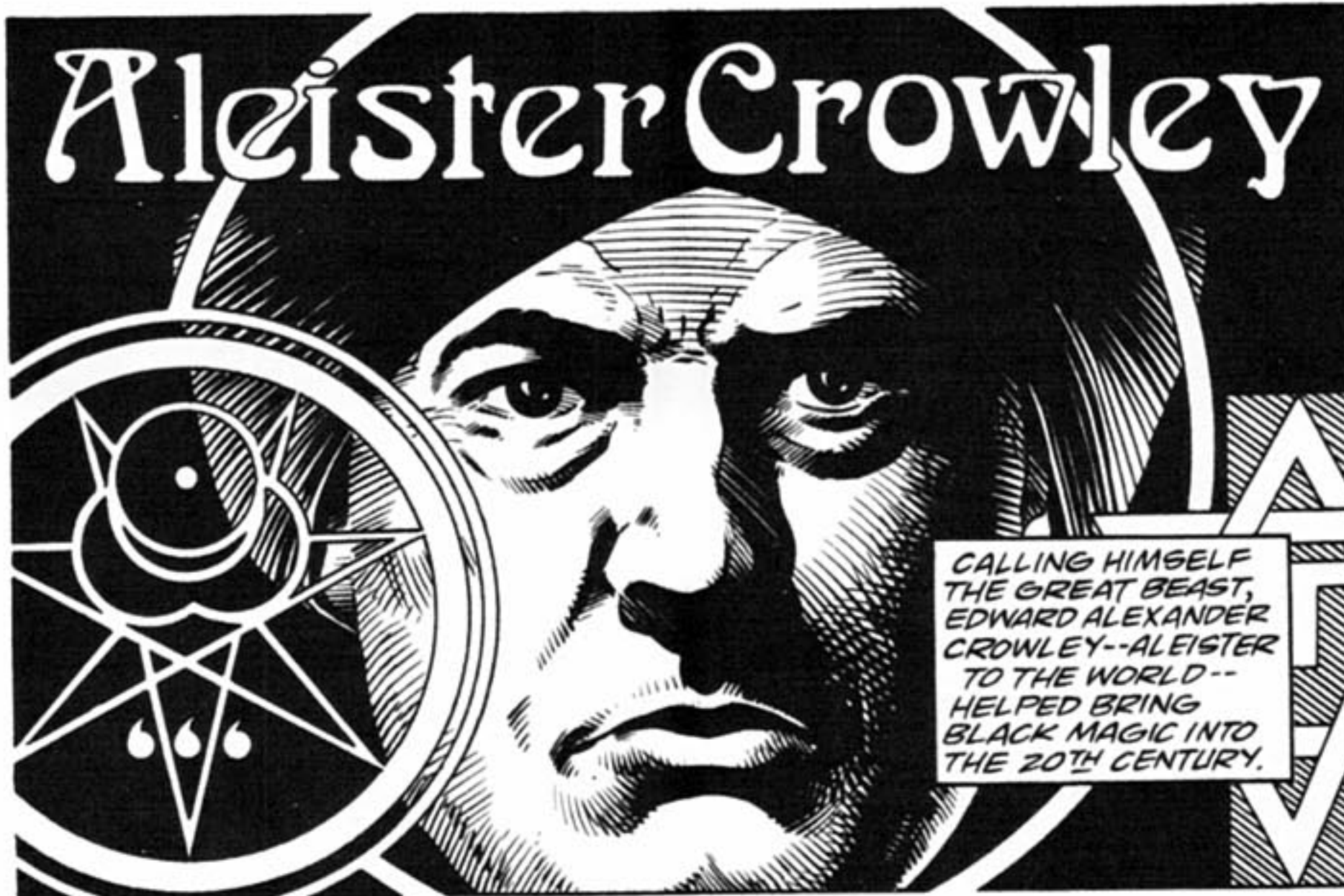












CALLING HIMSELF THE GREAT BEAST, EDWARD ALEXANDER CROWLEY--ALEISTER TO THE WORLD--HELPED BRING BLACK MAGIC INTO THE 20TH CENTURY.



HE CALLED IT MAGICK--THE OLD SPELLING--NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH STAGE MAGIC.



BORN INTO A FUNDAMENTALIST SCOTTISH HOME IN OCTOBER 1847, CROWLEY RESENTED THE CONFINES PLACED UPON HIM.

EDWARD, IF YE VALUES THY SKIN, LAD, THA'LL NOT LAG BACK SO MUCH.

AYE, EDDIE-- IT'S THY SOUL WE'RE CONCERNED WITH.



EDWARD, COME ON, IT'S TIME FER CHURCH.

NOT FOR ME IT ISN'T, FATHER.



THERE WAS MORE FOR HIM, HE BELIEVED, WITH SATAN.



HE BEGAN TO DABBLE IN WHAT IS CALLED HIGH, OR GREAT, MAGIC--



-- THE MAGIC THAT COMES FROM ALL THE ANCIENT, DARK MYSTICISM OF THE WORLD...

HEAR ME, SATAN, HEAR ME, OSIRIS AND ANUBIS...

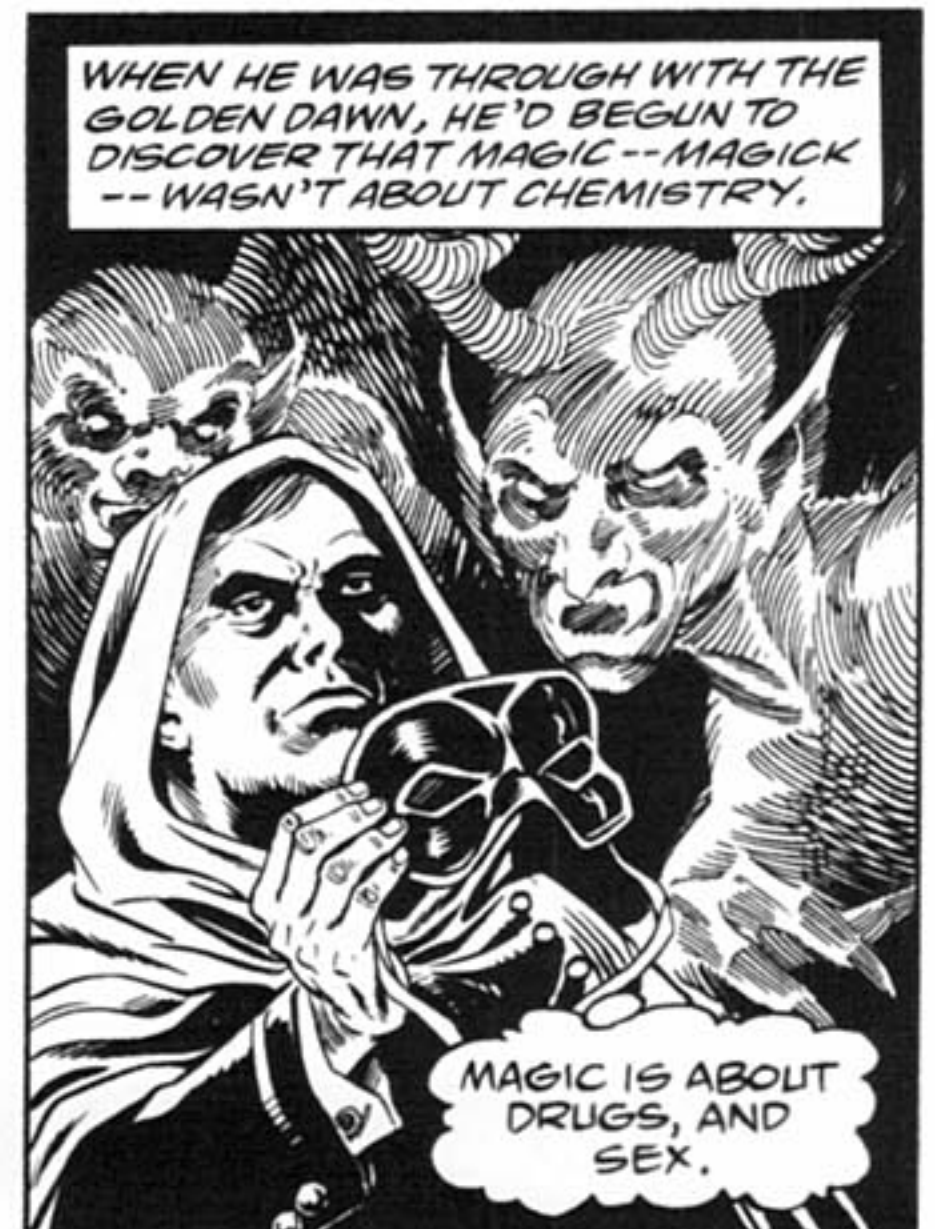


...FROM ANCIENT EGYPT, FROM THE JEWISH CABALA, FROM EONS OF WITCHCRAFT AND BLACK, BLACK MAGICK.

ERIKISEPHEARARARA...

CROWLEY BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR THE TRUTH OF EVIL.









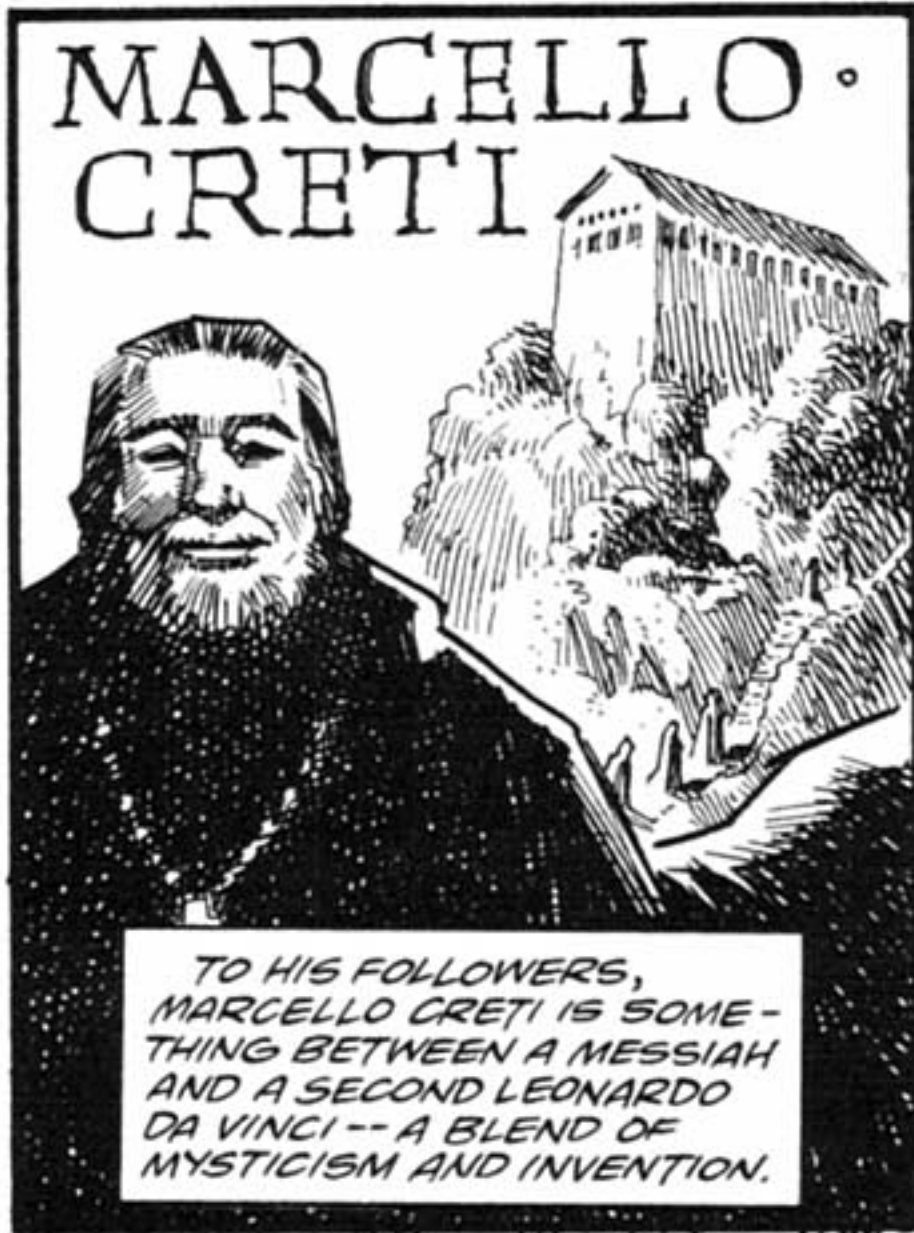
















CRETI PAINSTAKINGLY JOTS DOWN THE REVEALED DIAGRAMS, FORMULAS, AND DRAWINGS...



...WHICH HIS FOLLOWERS USE TO BUILD THE NEW THING.

THE MASTER SAYS IT CONNECTS TO THIS...

NO, NO, IF YOU'LL JUST READ HIS DIAGRAM...



DON'T THINK LIKE CABBAGES, MY CHILDREN.

THE ANTALIDEI HAVE LED CRETİ TO 118 "SCIENTIFIC REVELATIONS" THUS FAR...



...INCLUDING A DEVICE FOR TRIMMING NOSE HAIR, INVENTED WHEN HE WAS JUST 7.



AMONG HIS OTHER INSPIRATIONS:

AN ELECTROSHOCK APPARATUS...



...A DEVICE TO MEASURE ELECTROMAGNETIC EMISSIONS DELIBERATELY GIVEN OFF BY PLANTS...



...DON'T FORGET THE CANCER CURE.

...AND A CURE FOR CANCER.



YOU JUST HAVE TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THE MUD OF CONVENTION.

CRETİ'S MOVEMENT IS CALLED ERGOS--ENERGIA RADIANTE GOVERNANTE OGNI SCIENZA, OR RADIANT ENERGY GOVERNING ALL SCIENCE. HIS FOLLOWERS ARE CALLED ERGONİANS.



MASTER, MASTER, SEE WHAT WE HAVE DONE!

I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THE ANTALIDEI GIVE US THE BICYCLE...

TRUE, MANY OF THE INVENTIONS THE SPECTRAL ANTALIDEI REVEAL TO CRETİ ARE OLD NEWS. NO PROBLEM--UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE STUCK IN THE MUD OF CONVENTION.





AUSTRIAN PSYCHIATRIST, ACHIEVED EARLY DISTINCTION IN 1922 WHEN, HAVING GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA MEDICAL SCHOOL, HE ENTERED THE NEW FIELD OF PSYCHOANALYSIS.



HE WORKED WITH SUCH GIANTS AS SIGMUND FREUD, AND BEGAN TO LOOK LIKE A GIANT HIMSELF.

MOST INSIGHTFUL OF YOU, VILLIE.



BUT REICH'S SCIENCE SOON TOOK A TURN FOR THE WEIRD.



A MARXIST, REICH THOUGHT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PLIGHT OF THE UNDERCLASS.

IT ISN'T CHUST MONEY...



...IT'S INCOMPLETE SEXUAL RELEASE!



SOCIETY HAS BEEN CRRRIIPPLED BY MONOGAMY, A BAN ON PREMARITAL SEX, AND ALL SUCH HANGUPS.



IN 1934 HIS BELIEFS GOT HIM EJECTED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOANALYTIC ASSOCIATION.

EUNUCHS!



HE FLED TO SCANDINAVIA WHEN THE NAZIS CAME TO POWER.

REPPRESSED NEUROTICS!

HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF DISCOVERING THE MEANING OF EVERYTHING--OR SO HE BELIEVED.



IN EXILE IN NORWAY, REICH  
TURNED TO BIOLOGY--SOME-  
THING HE KNEW VERY LITTLE  
ABOUT.

PHYSICS HAS  
ELEMENTARY  
PARTICLES--  
WHY NOT  
LIFE?

HE DECIDED THAT LIFE'S FUNDA-  
MENTAL PARTICLE WAS SOME-  
THING CALLED THE BION.

BIONS, HE DEDUCED, AROSE  
SPONTANEOUSLY FROM NON-  
LIVING STUFF.

MORE IMPORTANT, HE DISCOVERED  
THE UNIVERSAL FORCE: ORGONE  
ENERGY...

...THE ENERGY OF ORGASM.

THIS IS THE  
FUNDAMENTAL  
POWER SOURCE  
OF THE  
UNIVERSE!

REICH'S UNIVERSE, LIKE HIS  
POLITICS, RAN ON SEX.

ORGONE ENERGY WAS IN EVERY-  
THING, EVERYWHERE,  
ESPECIALLY IN THINGS COLORED  
BLUE: THE SEA, THE SKY,  
WATER.

IT IS SO  
OBVIOUS!

ORGONE  
GIVES US THE  
WEATHER!

GRAVITY IS  
A MYTH! ORGONE  
HOLDS THE COSMOS  
TOGETHER!

FOR REICH TO BE RIGHT, EVERY-  
BODY ELSE HAD TO BE WRONG.  
HE DIDN'T MIND.







# CHAPTER FOUR

## THE WRITTEN WEIRD

### NOVELISTS AND POETS

Writing — like suicide — is a solitary pursuit. Long hours spent in quiet seclusion, waiting for inspiration to strike, and praying it does before the rent is due. All that thinking! All that worrying! It's no wonder writers sometimes drop over the edge into the realm of the weird. Each of the peculiar writers covered in this chapter embarked on a journey of self-discovery that led to revelations which ultimately took control of their lives. The affection Guy de Maupassant (*page 78*) had for prostitutes brought him to a madness that found voice on paper. The brilliantly paranoid observations of Franz Kafka (*page 82*) haunted his every waking moment. Ambrose Bierce (*page 88*) came to believe his own cynical social criticism so strongly that he was compelled to abandon society. If our examination of weird writers teaches us one thing, it's that it IS possible to think TOO MUCH....



# Edgar Allan Poe

...CHARMED AND TERRIFIED THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY WITH HIS POEMS AND STORIES OF ROMANCE, DEATH, AND THE OCCULT, AND BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN AUTHOR TO BE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED.



AND YET, HIS LIFE WAS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE-- AGAINST POVERTY, AND AGAINST THE EVIL HE SENSED HOVERING ABOUT HIS SOUL.



THE GENTLE, AFFECTIONATE, RELIABLE POE WAS BORN IN BOSTON IN 1809, AND GREW TO BE A SOBER FAMILY MAN.



THE OTHER POE INSIDE HIM WAS A MAN OF NIGHTMARISH VISIONS, A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER...



... A MAN FOR WHOM ALCOHOL WAS LIKE A DEADLY POISON.



ADOPTED AFTER THE EARLY DEATHS OF HIS ACTOR-PARENTS...

TIME TO GO, EDGAR.

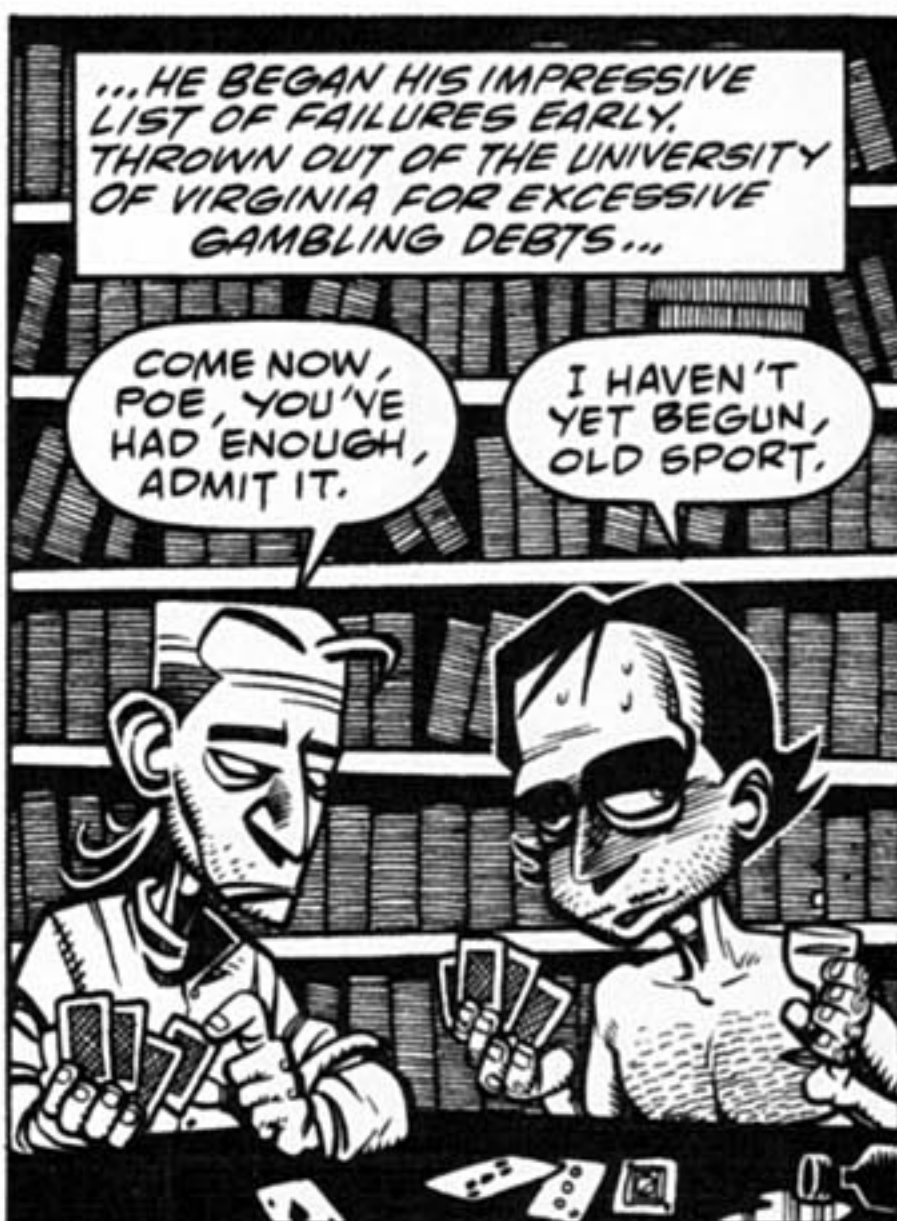
YES, AND MORE THAN TIME.



...HE BEGAN HIS IMPRESSIVE LIST OF FAILURES EARLY. THROWN OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA FOR EXCESSIVE GAMBLING DEBTS...

COME NOW, POE, YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, ADMIT IT.

I HAVEN'T YET BEGUN, OLD SPORT.



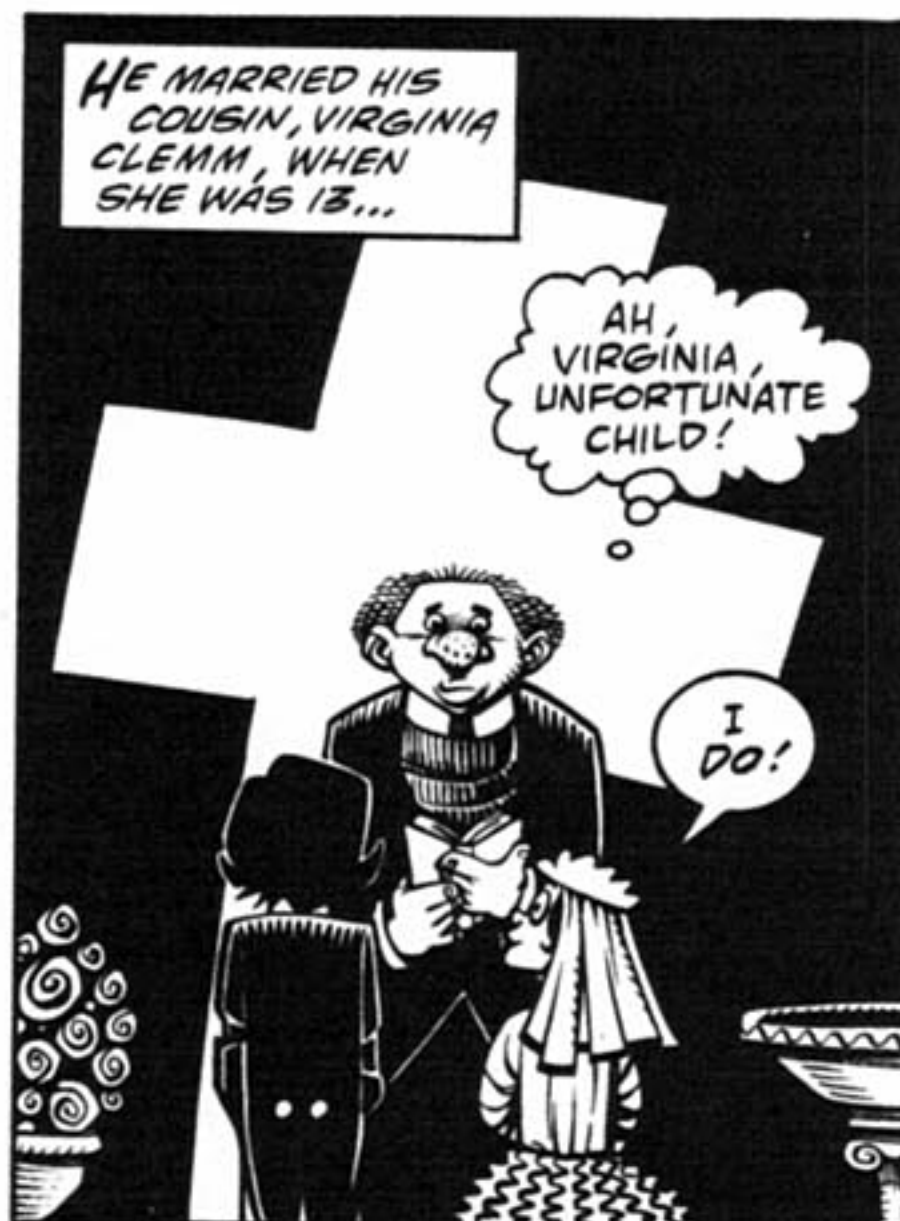
... AND EXPELLED FROM WEST POINT FOR MISSING DRILLS AND CLASSES.

NOW I CAN BEGIN.

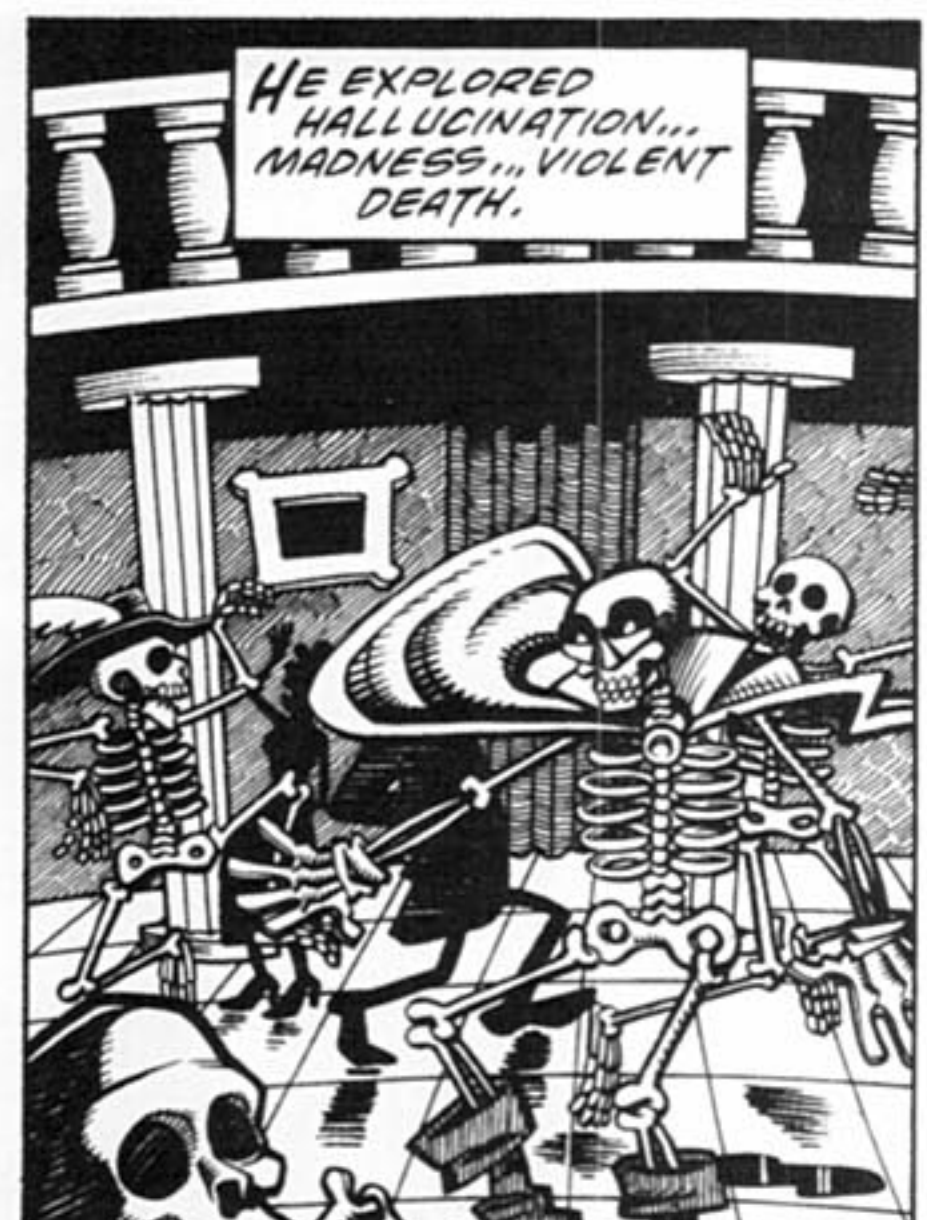
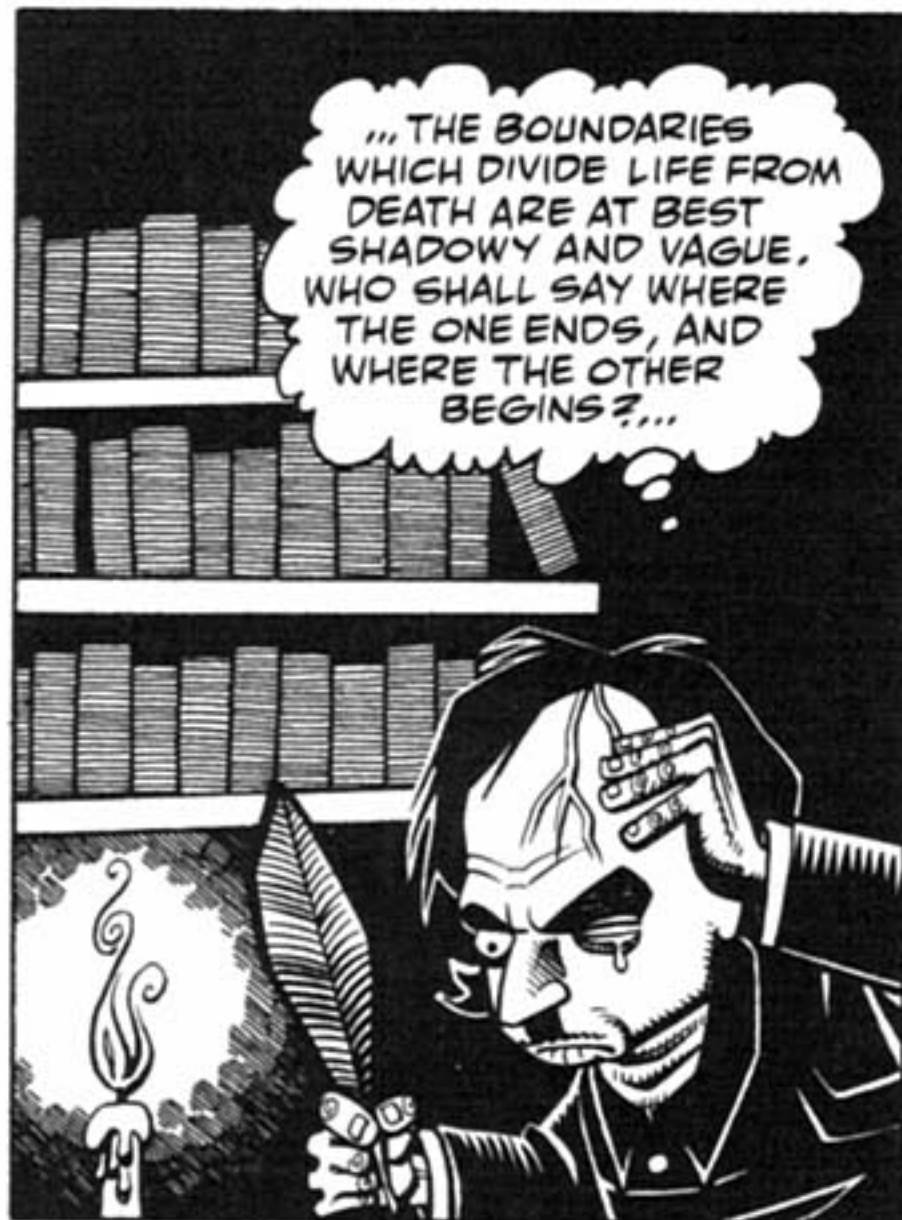
HE WAS INTERESTED IN ONLY ONE THING: WRITING.



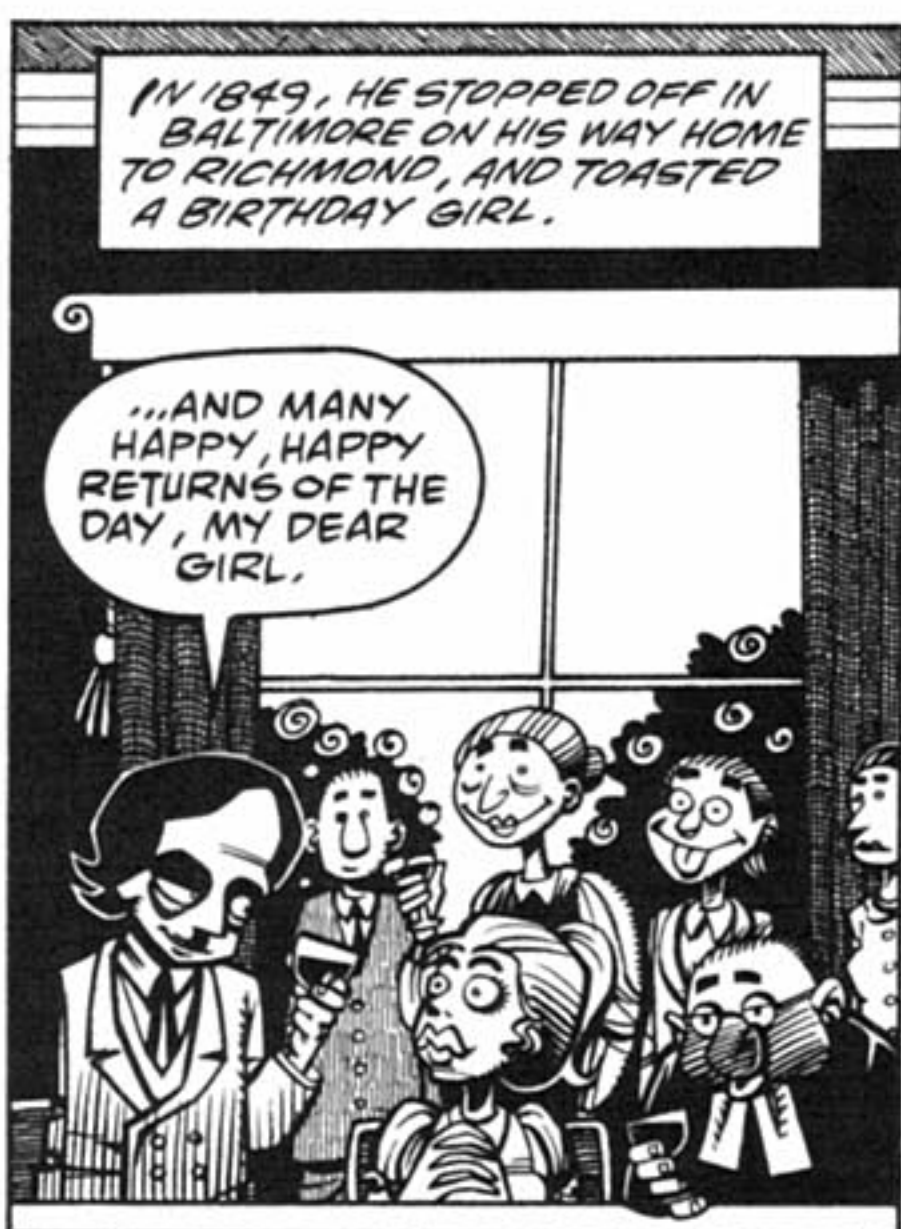
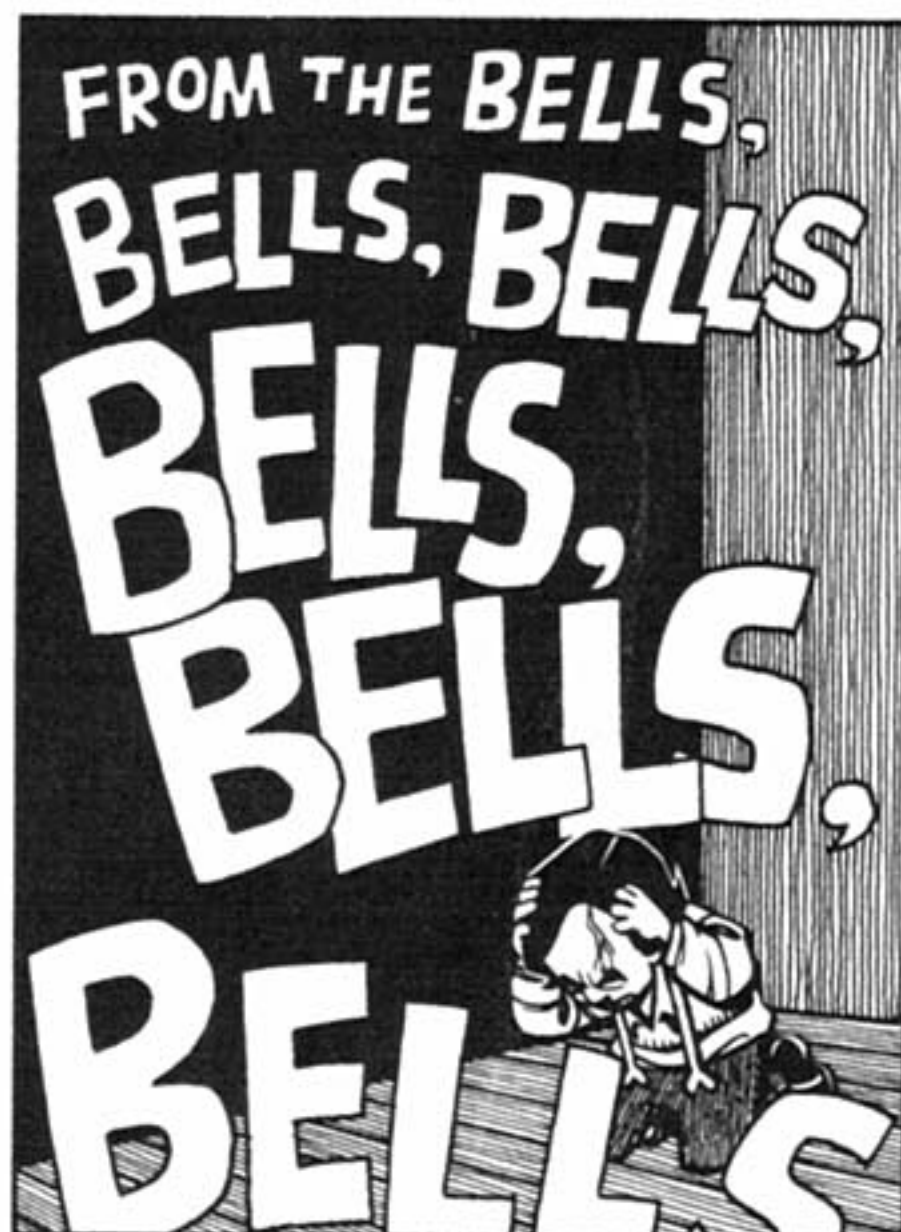
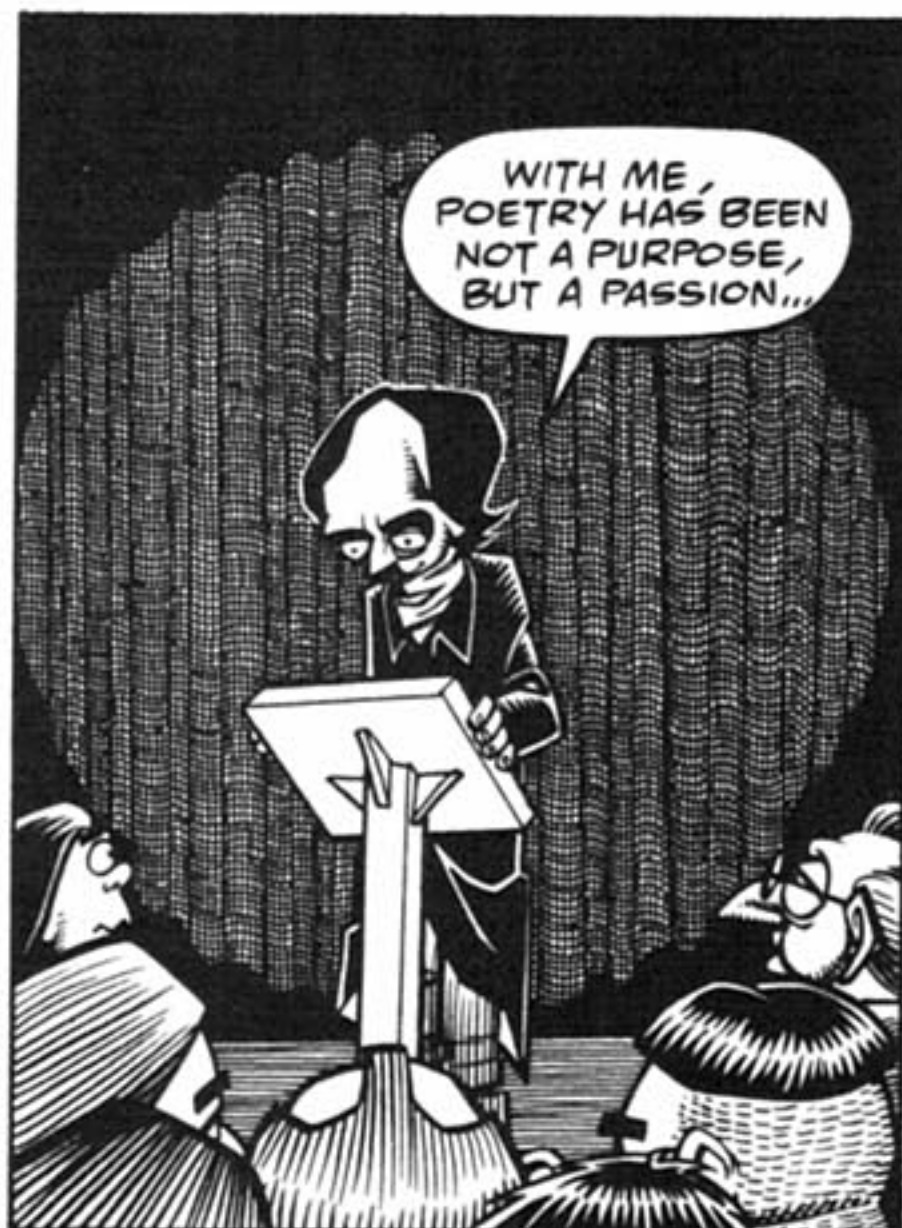








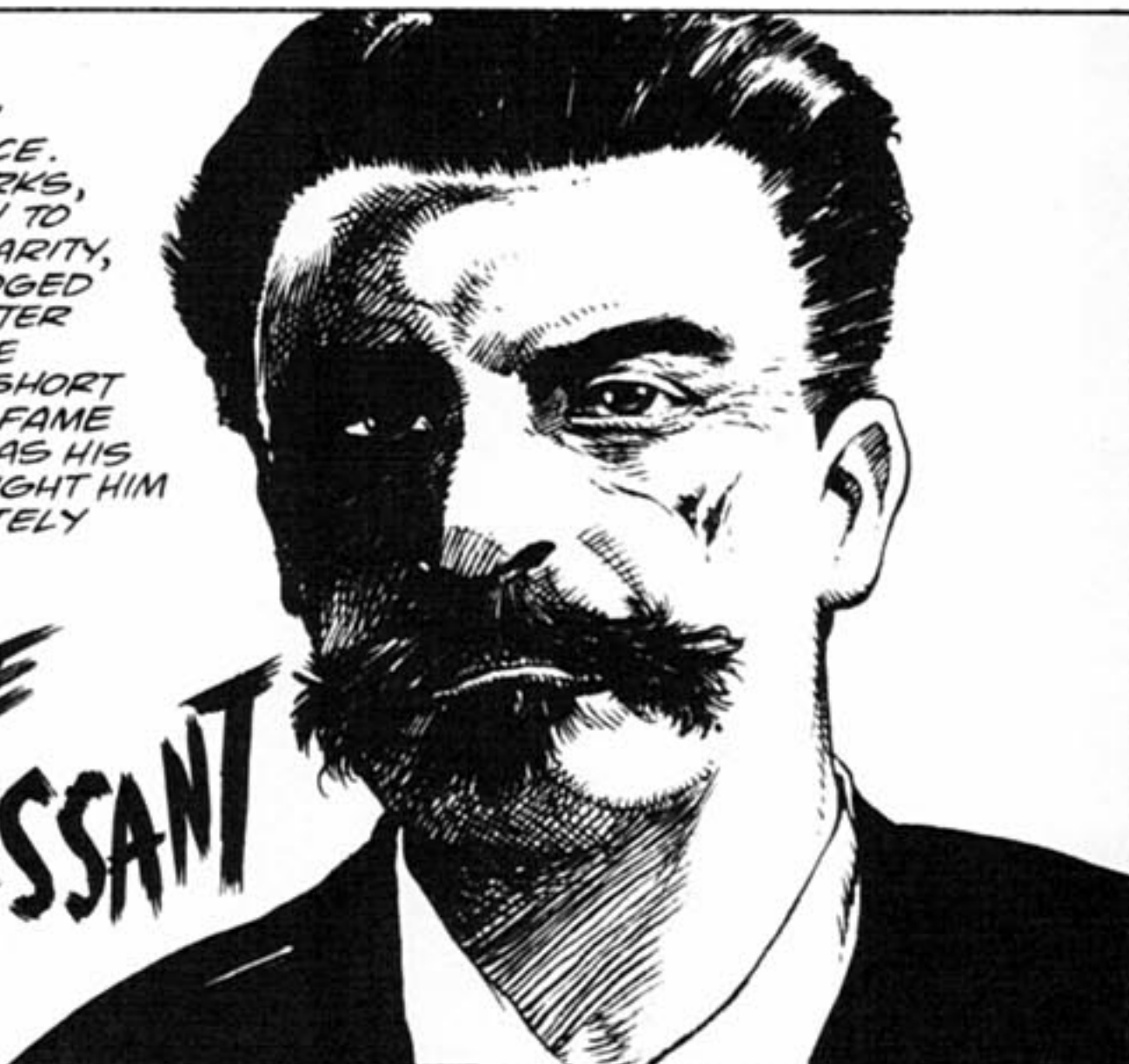






HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN AND BELOVED WRITERS IN 19TH-CENTURY FRANCE. FOR HIS LONGER WORKS, HE WAS SECOND ONLY TO EMILE ZOLA IN POPULARITY, BUT HE IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE ALL-TIME MASTER OF THE SLICE-OF-LIFE SHORT STORY. IN HIS SHORT LIFE HE KNEW GREAT FAME AND FORTUNE, EVEN AS HIS INNER DEMONS BROUGHT HIM GREAT -- AND ULTIMATELY FATAL -- TRAGEDY.

# GUY DE MAUPASSANT



MAUPASSANT'S SPARE, IRONIC STYLE WAS PERFECT FOR DESCRIBING THE REALITIES OF WAR AND THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF NORMANDY. HIS SUBJECTS SPANNED THE SOCIAL CLASSES.



HIS CHOICE OF CHARACTERS RANGED FROM THE HIGHEST NOBLES TO THE LOWEST STREET PROSTITUTES...



THOUGH IT MUST BE SAID THAT, IN LIFE AS WELL AS ART, HE PREFERRED THE LATTER.



THE GREAT FRENCH NOVELIST GUSTAVE FLAUBERT HELPED HIM SEE HIS LITERARY POTENTIAL...

OBSERVED DETAIL, MY BOY. OBSERVED DETAIL.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ARE MY REAL FATHER?

(RUMOR HELD THAT GUY WAS FLAUBERT'S ILLEGITIMATE SON.)



THE WOMEN OF FRANCE HELPED HIM WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.



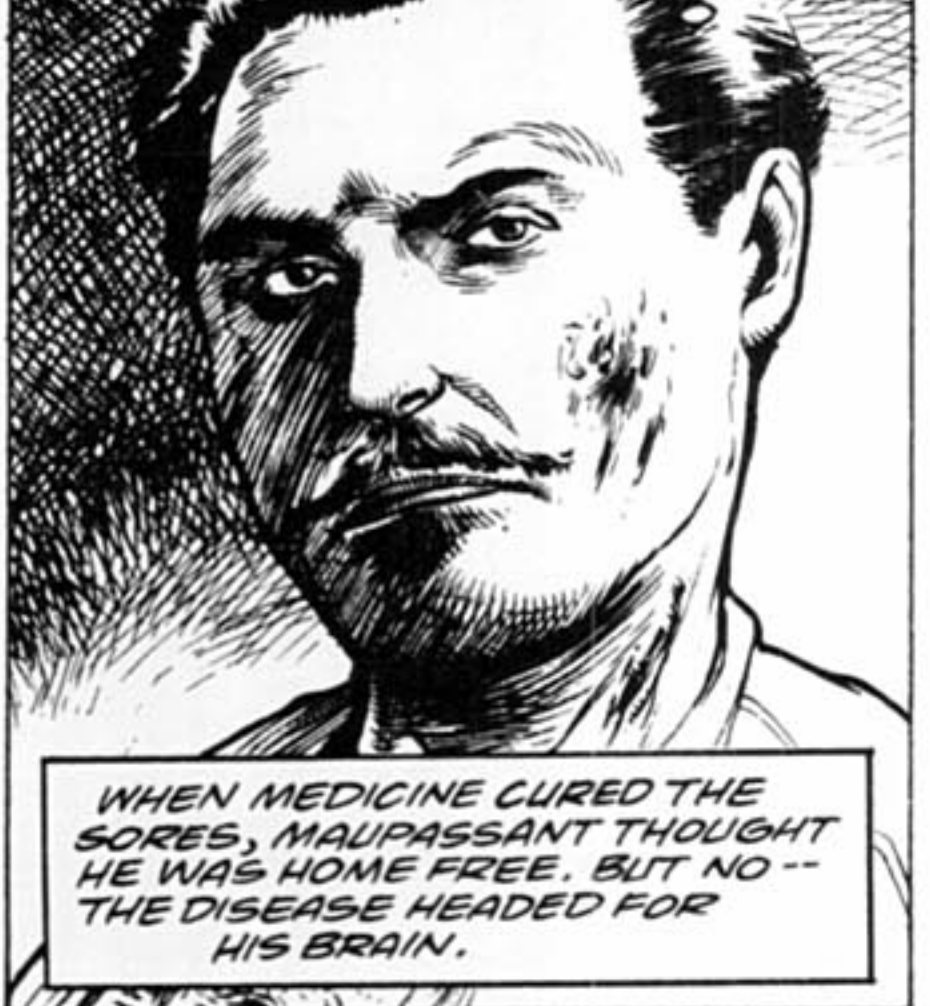
SO MANY OF THESE CREATURES. AND SO LITTLE TIME.

BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIS EARLY 20S, THEY'D ALSO GIVEN HIM SYPHILIS.



I AM A PROMISCUOUS CULT OF ONE.

WHEN MEDICINE CURED THE SORES, MAUPASSANT THOUGHT HE WAS HOME FREE. BUT NO -- THE DISEASE HEADED FOR HIS BRAIN.



















CZECH WRITER FRANZ KAFKA PERSONIFIED THE BEWILDERING IN MODERN SOCIETY. EVEN TODAY, WHEN THINGS ARE SURREALLY NOT WHAT THEY SEEM, WE CALL THEM KAFKAESQUE.



BUT THAT WORLD WAS NOT SOMETHING HE INVENTED.



FOR 40 YEARS, UNTIL HIS DEATH FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN 1924, KAFKA LIVED THERE.



HIS FATHER WAS A DOMINEERING PRAGUE MERCHANT WHOSE LITANY OF ABUSE CRIPPLED YOUNG FRANZ.

WHY DO YOU COWER? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?



THE CZECH BUREAUCRACY WAS AN OCEAN OF OBFUSCATION.

COME BACK YESTERDAY, UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'D PREFER LAST WEEK, DEPENDING OF COURSE, ON YOUR GUILT OR INNOCENCE... 15 CROWNS, PLEASE.



KAFKA'S MIND SWIRLED WITH DISTURBING IMAGES.



HE WROTE OF A CASTLE TO WHICH ONE COULD NEVER GAIN ACCESS BECAUSE OF AN ELABORATE BUREAUCRACY...



...AND OF TRIALS THAT CHARGE A DEFENDANT-- BUT OF UNSPECIFIED CRIMES.

GUILTY!

BUT OF WHAT?

KAFKA'S WORLD WAS A NIGHTMARE.





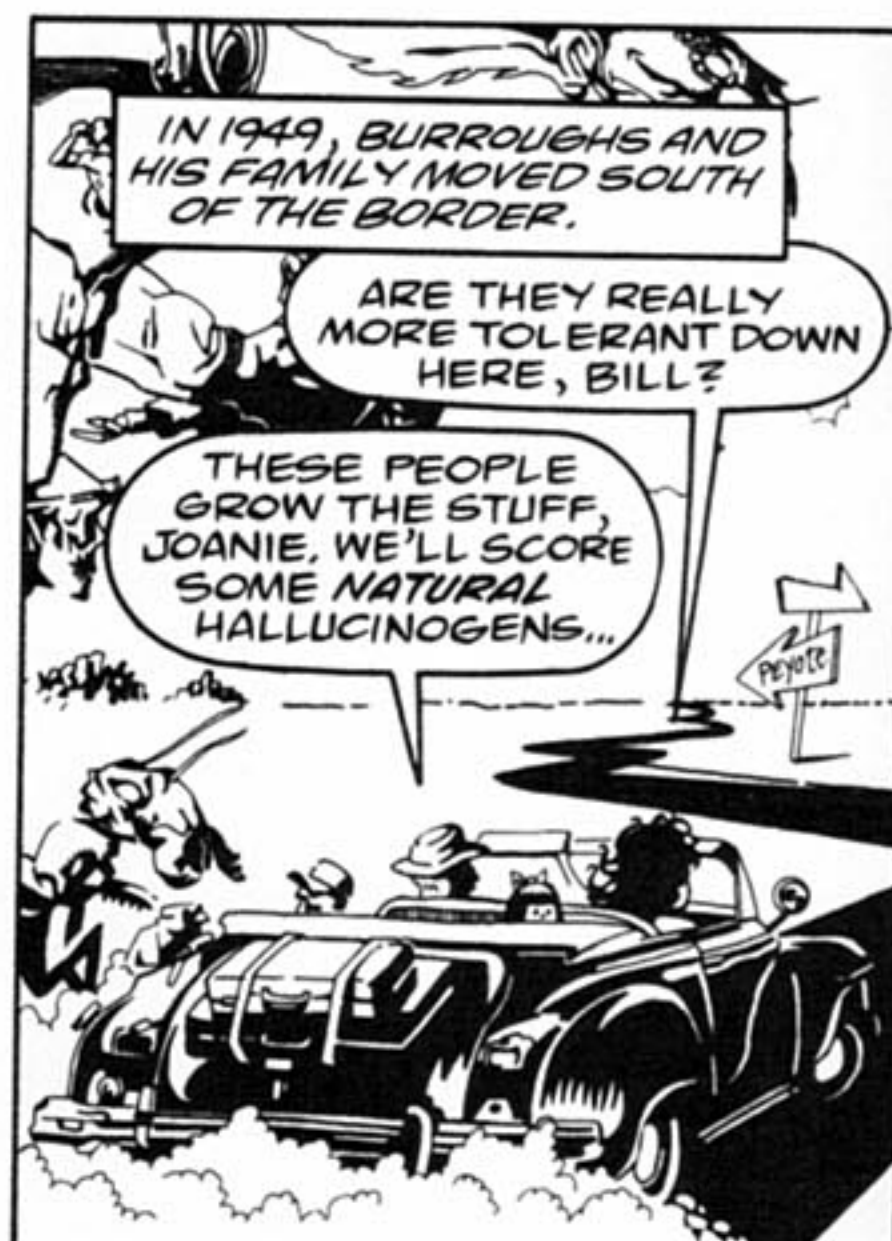




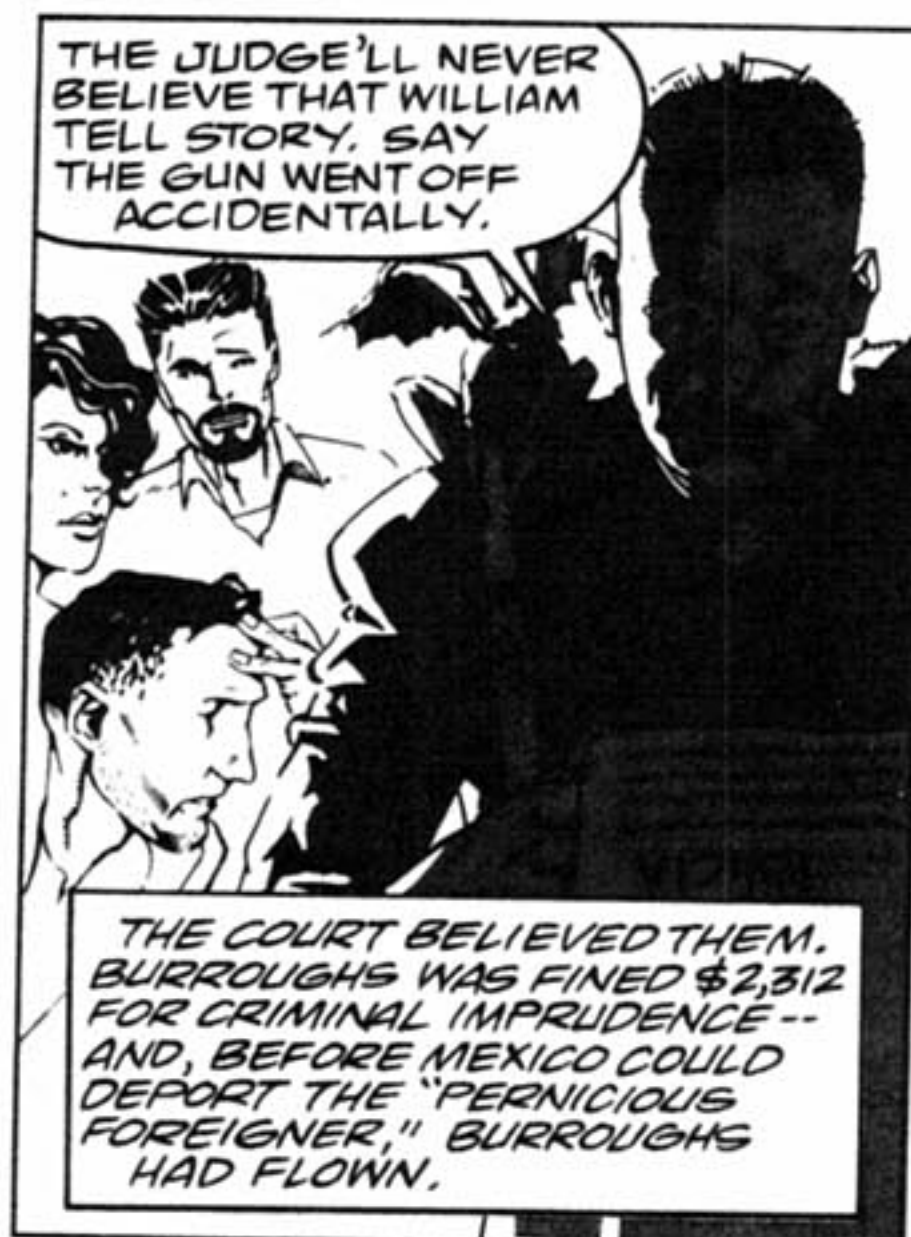
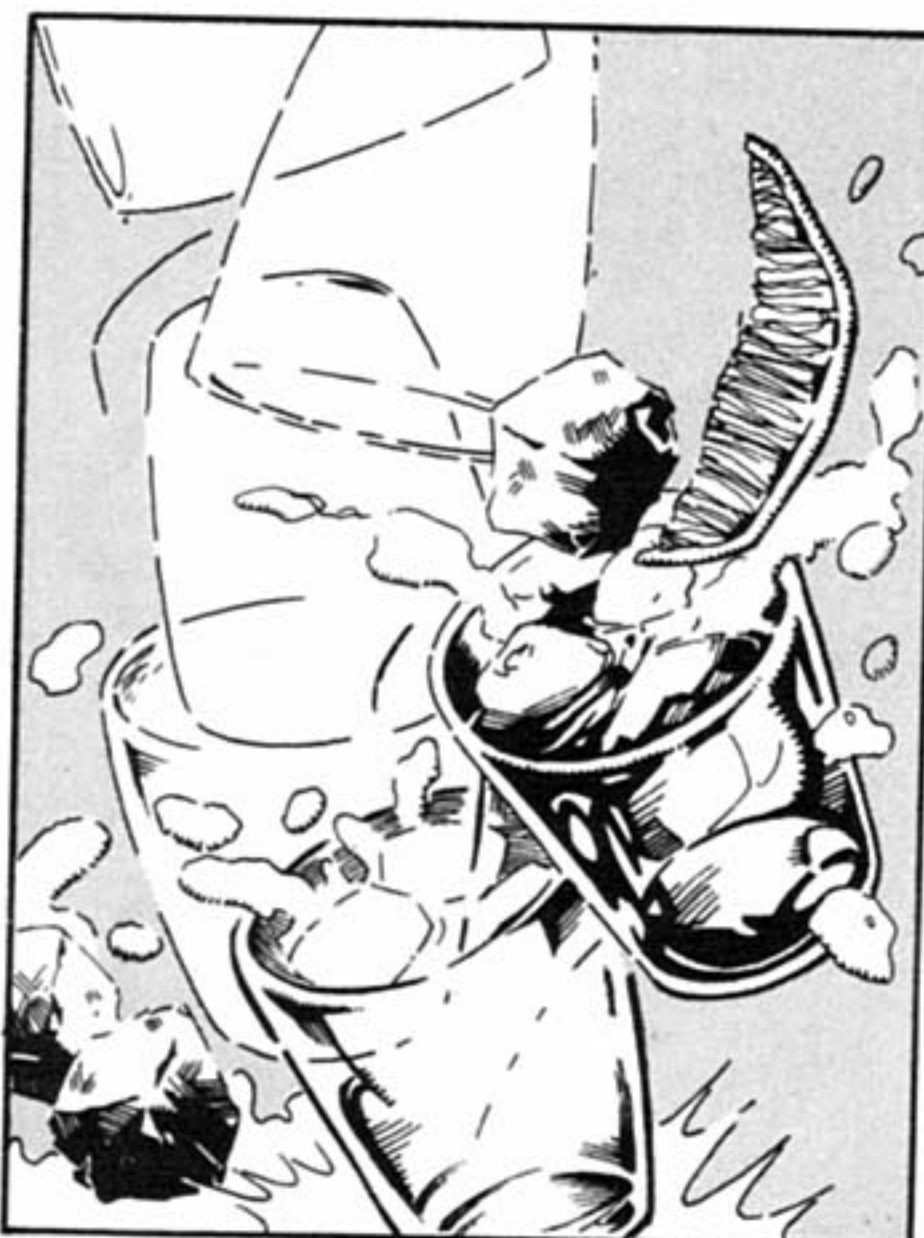














# Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce

... BECAME FAMOUS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR AS THE "WICKEDEST MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO" AND ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE BEST-KNOWN WRITER IN THE WESTERN U.S.



SOME RANKED HIM WITH EDGAR ALLAN POE -- ALTHOUGH HE WAS MORE CYNICAL.



IN BIERCE'S MACABRE STORIES, CHILDREN GET EATEN BY DOGS-- ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN.



HIS DEVIL'S DICTIONARY, PUBLISHED IN 1906, SET THE TONE FOR HIS LIFE.

CYNIC: A BLACKGUARD WHOSE FAULTY VISION SEES THINGS AS THEY ARE, NOT AS THEY OUGHT TO BE.



BIERCE BEGAN HIS WANDERING CAREER AT 15, WHEN HE WALKED AWAY FROM HIS OHIO FARM TO JOIN THE UNION ARMY.



HE WAS A DRUMMER BOY AT SHILOH.

BY NASHVILLE, HE'D MADE LIEUTENANT.



BUT A SEVERE HEAD WOUND IN THE FIGHT FOR ATLANTA CHANGED HIM -- FOREVER.























"HIS WIFE DIED IN 1864, AND A GOOD THING... IT WAS A TERRIBLE MARRIAGE."



"THREE MONTHS LATER, HIS BROTHER DIED."

"HE INHERITED THE WIDOW AND HER CHILDREN."



"CHRIST, THE POOR DEVIL COULDN'T SUPPORT HIMSELF."



AND HE HAD ANOTHER KIND OF SICKNESS...



"... GAMBLING."



"WHEN HE WAS DOWN AND OUT, HE'D BORROW MONEY TO GAMBLE. HE BELIEVED HE'D WIN BIG, PAY HIS DEBTS, AND STOP."

DOUBLE-ZERO! OH, GOD!



I AM SORRY, FYODOR MIKHAYLOVICH. WE CAN EXTEND NO MORE CREDIT.

BUT I'M CLOSE TO WINNING... I SENSE IT!

SORRY, NO.

"OF COURSE, ALL GAMBLERS BELIEVE THAT. IT IS PART OF THEIR ILLNESS."



"HIS STRANGE FITS BECAME WORSE."

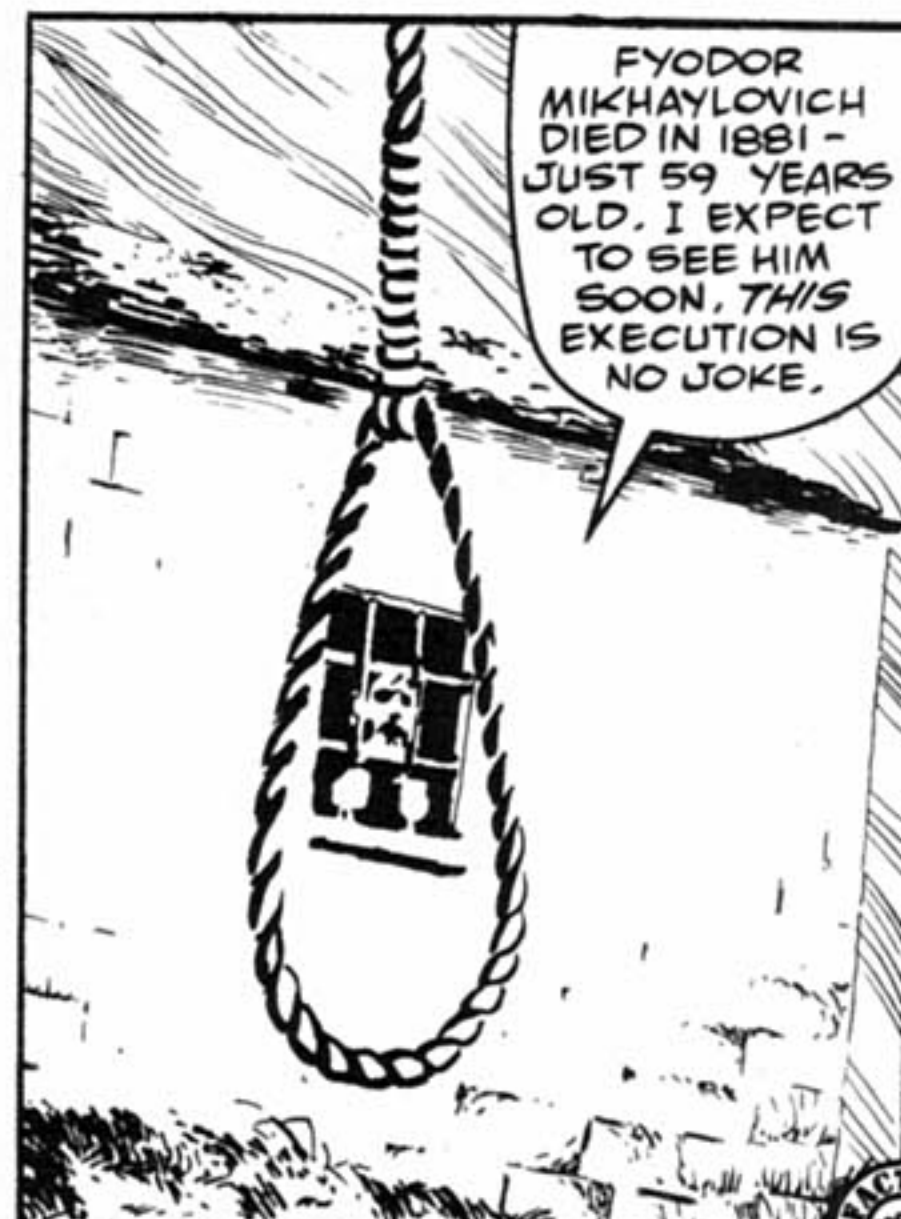


"THEN HE MET ANNA GRIGORYEVNA SNITKINA, FIRST HIS STENOGRAPHER..."

"GOOD AND EVIL ARE SO MONSTROUSLY MIXED IN MAN..."

"...THEN HIS ADORING WIFE."







# CHAPTER FIVE

## CURTAIN - CALL CRACKPOTS

### PERFORMERS AND PLAYWRIGHTS

Call it what you will: nerve, guts, *cajones*... but it takes a certain something for a person to get up on stage and present his or her talents to the world. All performers are exhibitionists at heart, and the weirdos contained in this chapter are no exception. From escape artists and magicians like Harry Houdini (*page 104*) and Chung Ling Soo (*page 102*) to “dancin’ fools” Isadora Duncan (*page 110*) and Vaslav Nijinsky (*page 114*), these performers let it all hang out. In public. On stage. What their wildly appreciative audiences saw them do made them great. But what the public never saw, never even DREAMED, made them immortal. From Edward Askew Sothern (*page 100*) and his obsession with practical jokes, to Sarah Bernhardt (*page 96*) and her love affair with half of Europe, these weirdos led double lives: public and private, upstanding . . . and bizarre.



# SARAH BERNHARDT.



THE DAUGHTER OF AN UNWED JEWISH-DUTCH COURTESAN, FRANCE'S SARAH BERNHARDT BECAME THE GREATEST ACTRESS OF HER TIME -- AND THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL THEATRICAL STAR.



SHE RULED THE WORLD'S STAGES FOR HALF OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. OSCAR WILDE CALLED HER THE INCOMPARABLE. OTHERS CALLED HER THE DIVINE.



SHE HAD A STRANGE, COMPELLING, CAT-FACED BEAUTY.



HER MAGNIFICENT VOICE MADE HER PETITE BODY REVERBERATE -- SHE COULD PLAY ANYTHING.

EVEN MEN.



DYING WONDERFULLY WAS HER SPECIALTY.

PENSEZ À MOI...  
:gasp:  
:rattle:  
HORATIO...



IMPRESARIO VICTORIEN SARDOLU KNEW HER WELL.

AH. THERE SHE GOES, VICTORIEN.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING MORE REMARKABLE THAN WATCHING SARAH ACT, IT IS WATCHING HER LIVE.



SHE DEMANDED MUCH FROM HER MEN. ONCE SHE WATCHED, EXCITED, AS RIVALS FOR HER FAVORS DUELED.



SHE PUSHED ONE SUITOR FROM A SECOND-STORY WINDOW, AND HORSE-WHIPPED ANOTHER.





BUT LOVE WAS NOT BERNHARDT'S REAL OBSESSION.



SHE WAS FASCINATED BY DEATH.



SHE LIKED TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED IN HER LITTLE ROSEWOOD AND SATIN COFFIN...



... AND FINAGLED HER WAY IN TO WATCH EXECUTIONS.



ON AN AMERICAN TOUR, SHE EVEN WENT TO WATCH THE SLAUGHTER AT CHICAGO'S FAMOUS STOCKYARDS.



NOT THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE ANIMALS-- ESPECIALLY BIG FELINE ONES. THEY WERE ONE OF HER MAJOR WEAKNESSES.

AH, MA PETITE.



FRENCH NOVELIST ALEXANDER DUMAS ONCE FOUND HER PUMA EATING HIS STRAW HAT.

UH, SARAH...



MONEY ALSO OBSESSED HER. SHE TOOK HER PAY IN GOLD COINS, AND CARRIED THEM IN BAGS EVERYWHERE SHE WENT.

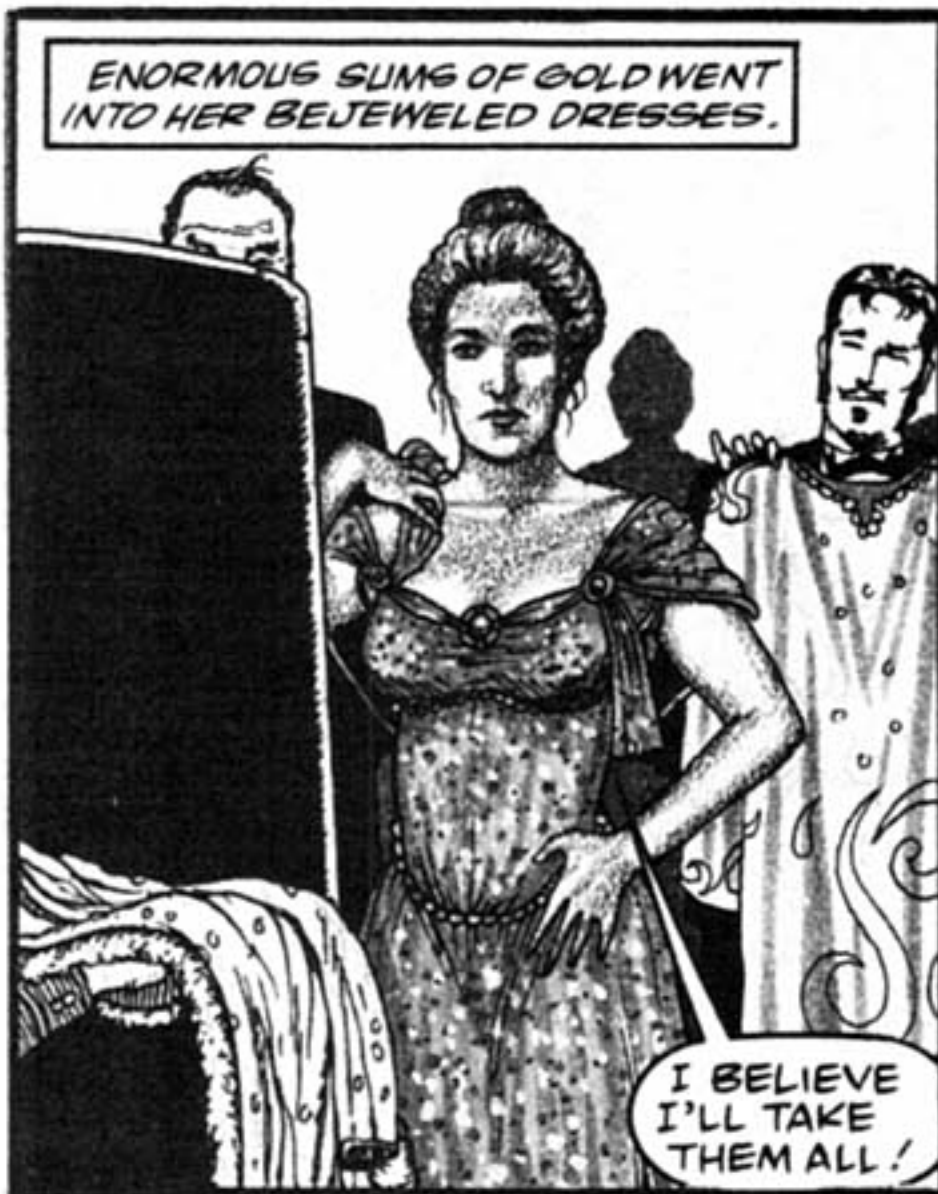


SHE PURSUED A GRAND LIFE-STYLE OF HUGE PARTIES IN LUSH SURROUNDINGS.

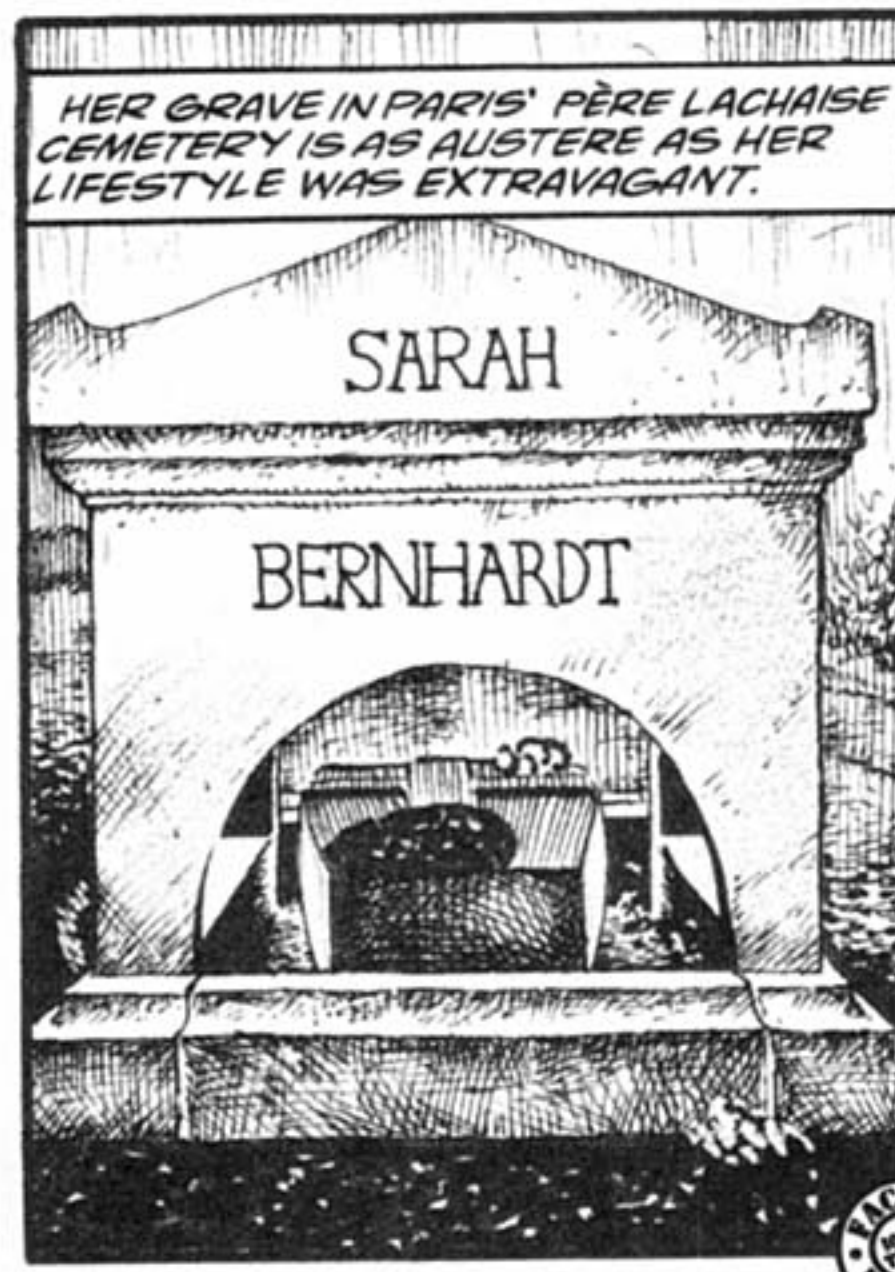
CAN I HELP YOU, MADAME?

CHAMPAGNE FOR ME -- A RAT FOR MY LIZARD.











# Edward Askew Sothorn

... WAS A WELL-KNOWN BRITISH ACTOR, FAMOUS FOR HIS PORTRAYAL OF A SATIRICAL STEREOTYPE OF AN ENGLISH ARISTOCRAT. BUT IN HIS DAY, SOTHERN WAS KNOWN -- AND FEARED -- FOR HIS OFFSTAGE MANIA FOR JOKES -- PRACTICAL, THAT IS.



HE WAS THE QUINTESSENTIAL -- SOME SAID PATHOLOGICAL -- PRANKSTER.



FOR SOTHERN, THE WHOLE WORLD WAS A STAGE FOR MISCHIEF.

I SAY ... A TRAY OF LETTERS!



"I SHALL BRING THE PYTHONS ON THURSDAY."



PYTHONS? ... THURSDAY? ... WOT TH' ... I SAY ... ARROHH.

THERE YOU GO, MY GOOD MAN.



FOR A DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDREL, SIR, FOR GIVING A POOR MAN FALSE SILVER!



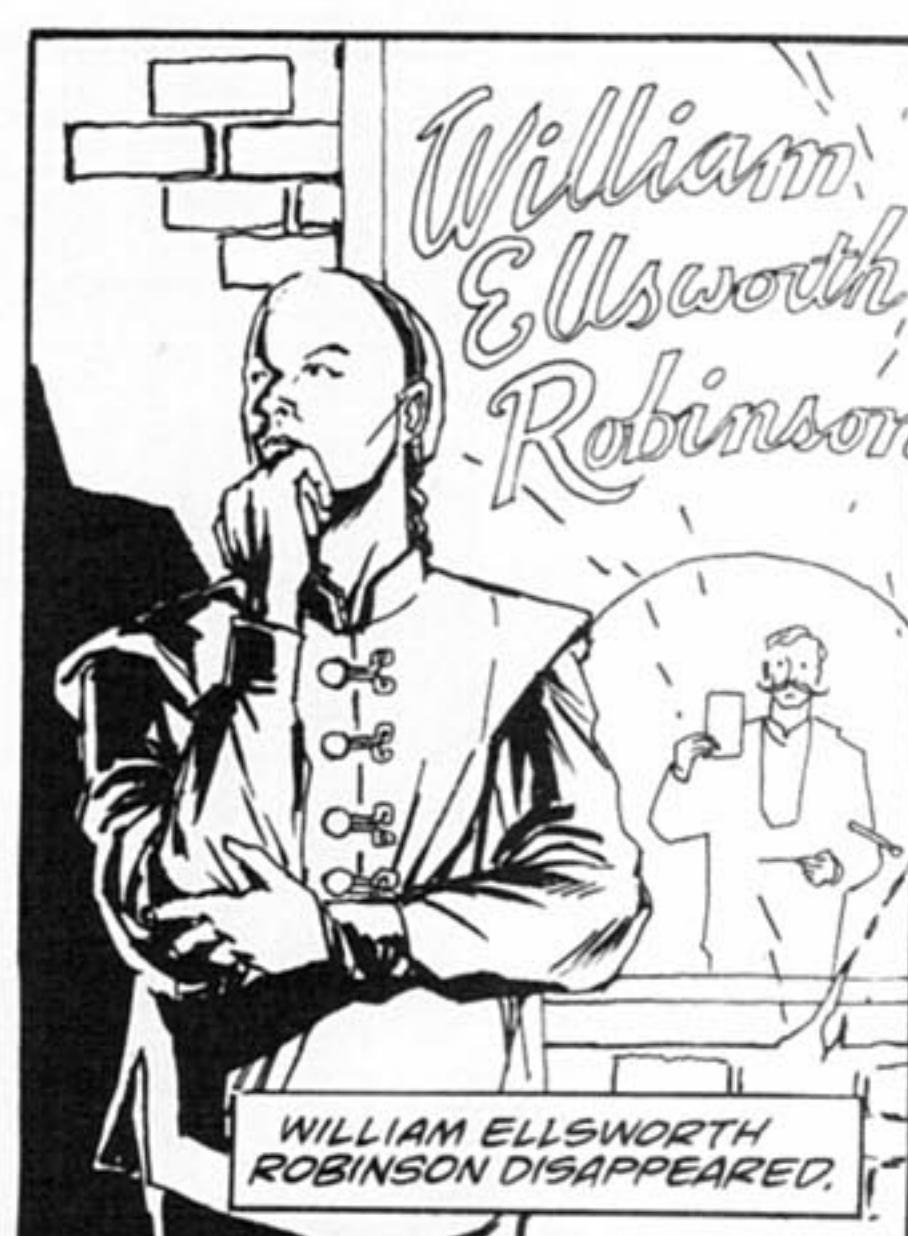
YOU WILL BE SAD TO LEARN OF THE SUDDEN DEATH OF ... LET'S SEE ... JONATHAN DOE IN OSLO STOP YOU SHOULD RECEIVE HIS REMAINS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS STOP ...



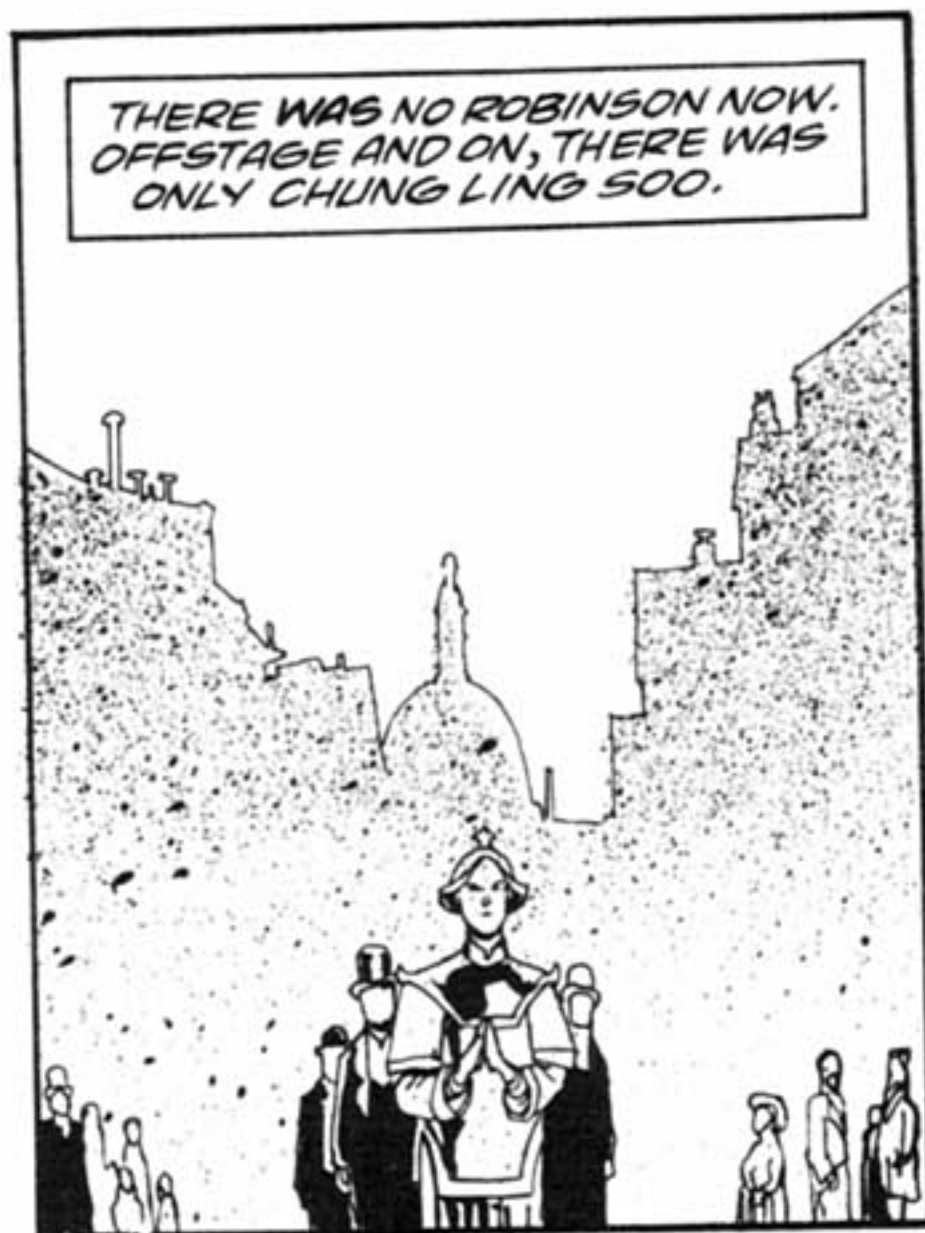












THERE WAS NO ROBINSON NOW. OFFSTAGE AND ON, THERE WAS ONLY CHUNG LING SOO.



HE USED AN INTERPRETER WHEN DEALING WITH THE MEDIA.

CHUNG LING SOO SAY, THANK YOU EVER SO, GENTLEMENS, AND NOW, GOOD DAYS.

EVEN HIS WIFE, OLIVE, WENT ALONG. SHE BECAME SUEE SEEN.



HIS EFFECTS HAD A DEFINITE ORIENTAL FLAVOR...



...ESPECIALLY HIS MOST FAMOUS STUNT:

THE DEATH-DEFYING BULLET CATCH, WHICH HE SAID HE USED TO ESCAPE EXECUTION DURING THE BOXER REBELLION.



AFTER VERIFYING THAT THE RIFLE WAS INDEED LOADED, THE VOLUNTEER WOULD FIRE IT AT THE MAGICIAN...

KPOW

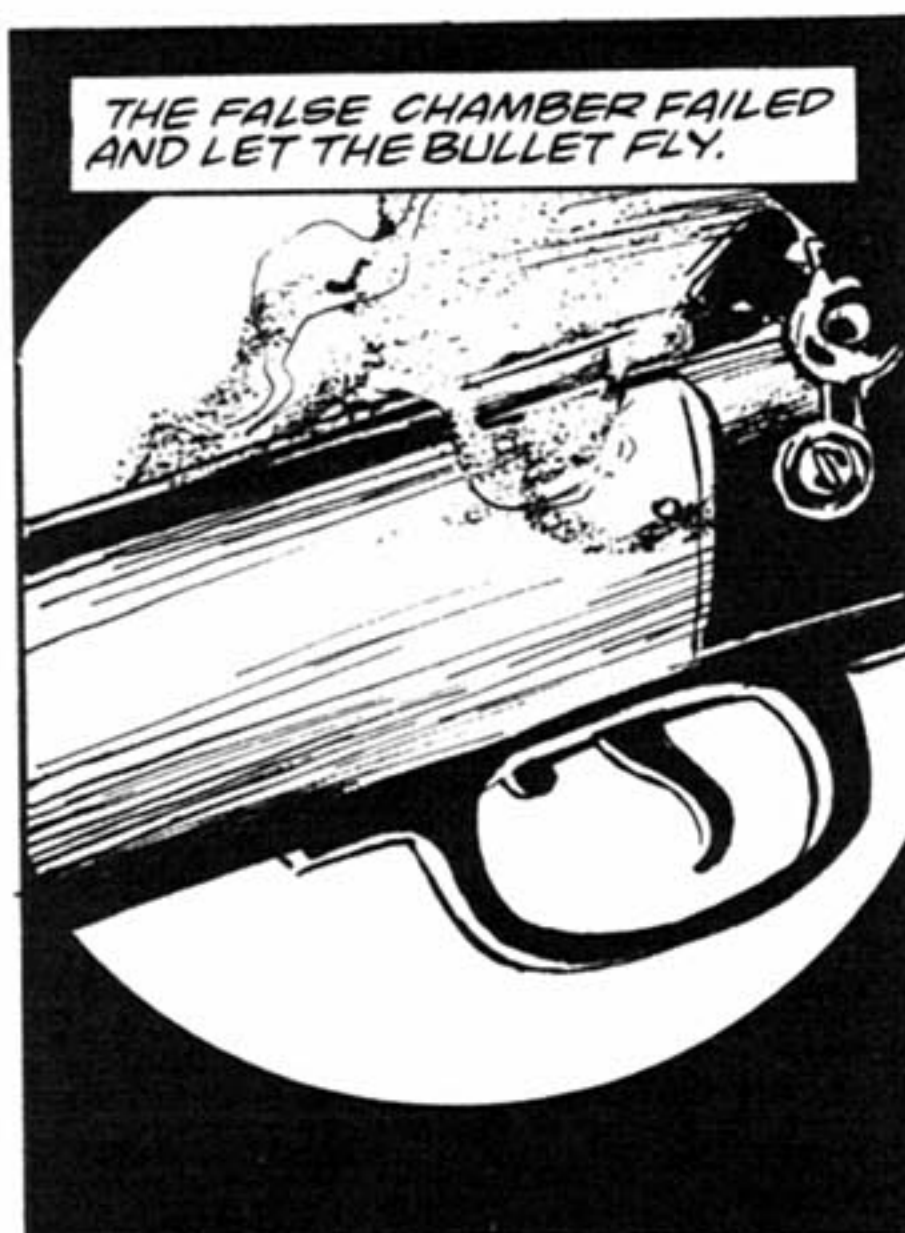


...WHO WOULD SEEM TO CATCH THE BULLETS IN MID-AIR BEFORE THEY COULD HARM HIM.

BUT THE RIFLE HAD A SECRET COMPARTMENT THAT RETAINED THE BULLETS WHEN THE GUN FIRED.



ON MARCH 23, 1918, CHUNG LING SOO REALLY CAUGHT A BULLET--IN HIS CHEST.



THE FALSE CHAMBER FAILED AND LET THE BULLET FLY.

KPOW

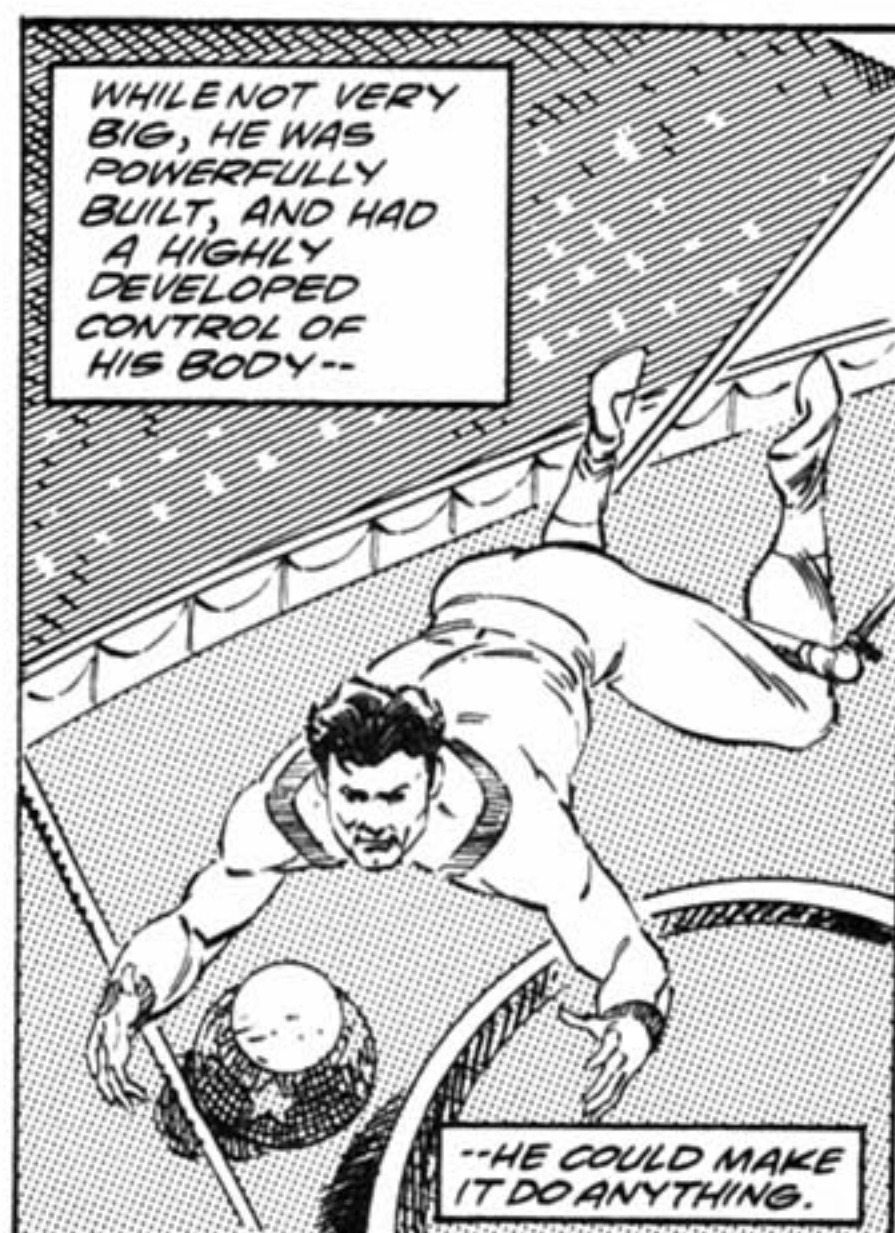
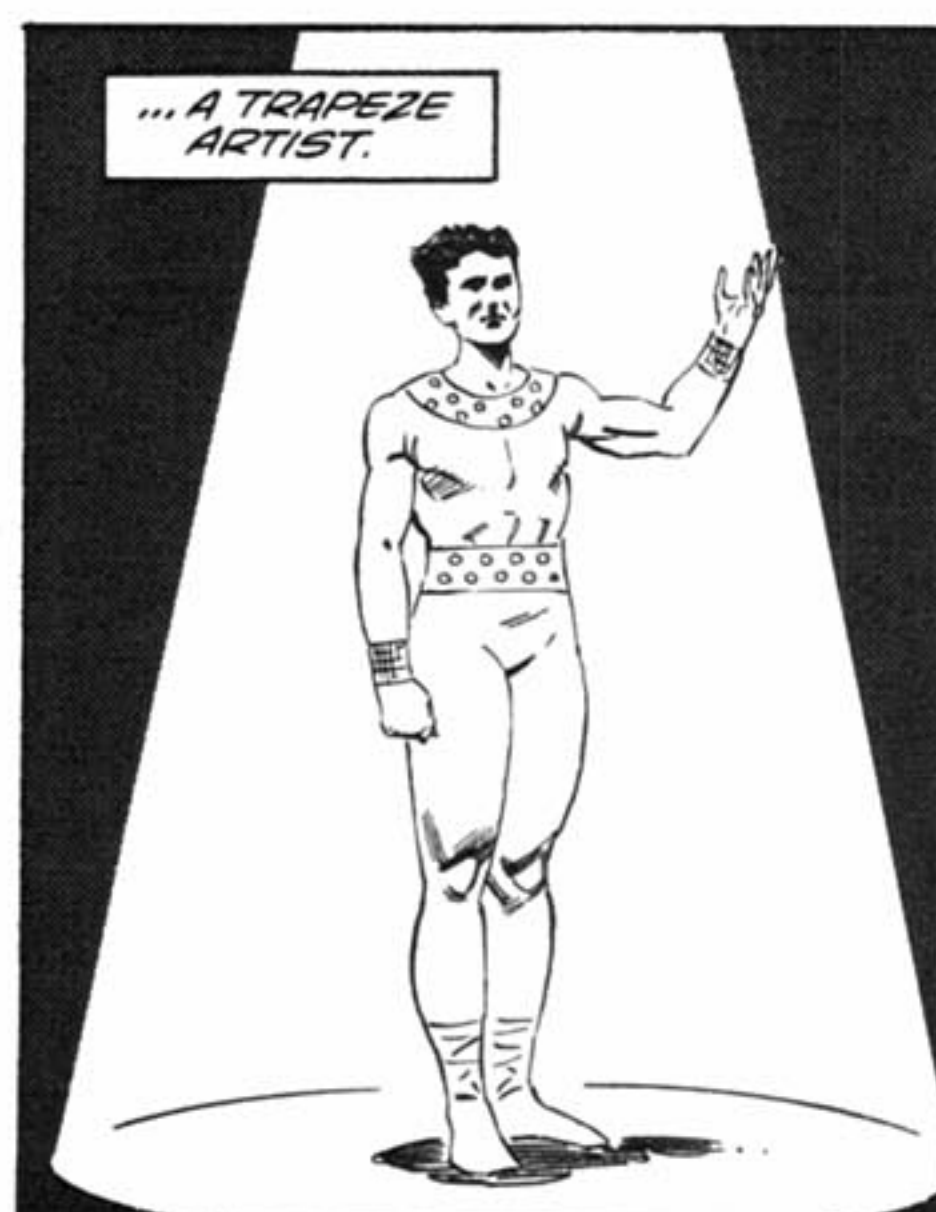


MY GOD-- I'VE BEEN SHOT!

THEY WERE THE FIRST ENGLISH WORDS HE'D SPOKEN ON STAGE IN 18 YEARS--AND HIS LAST EVER.











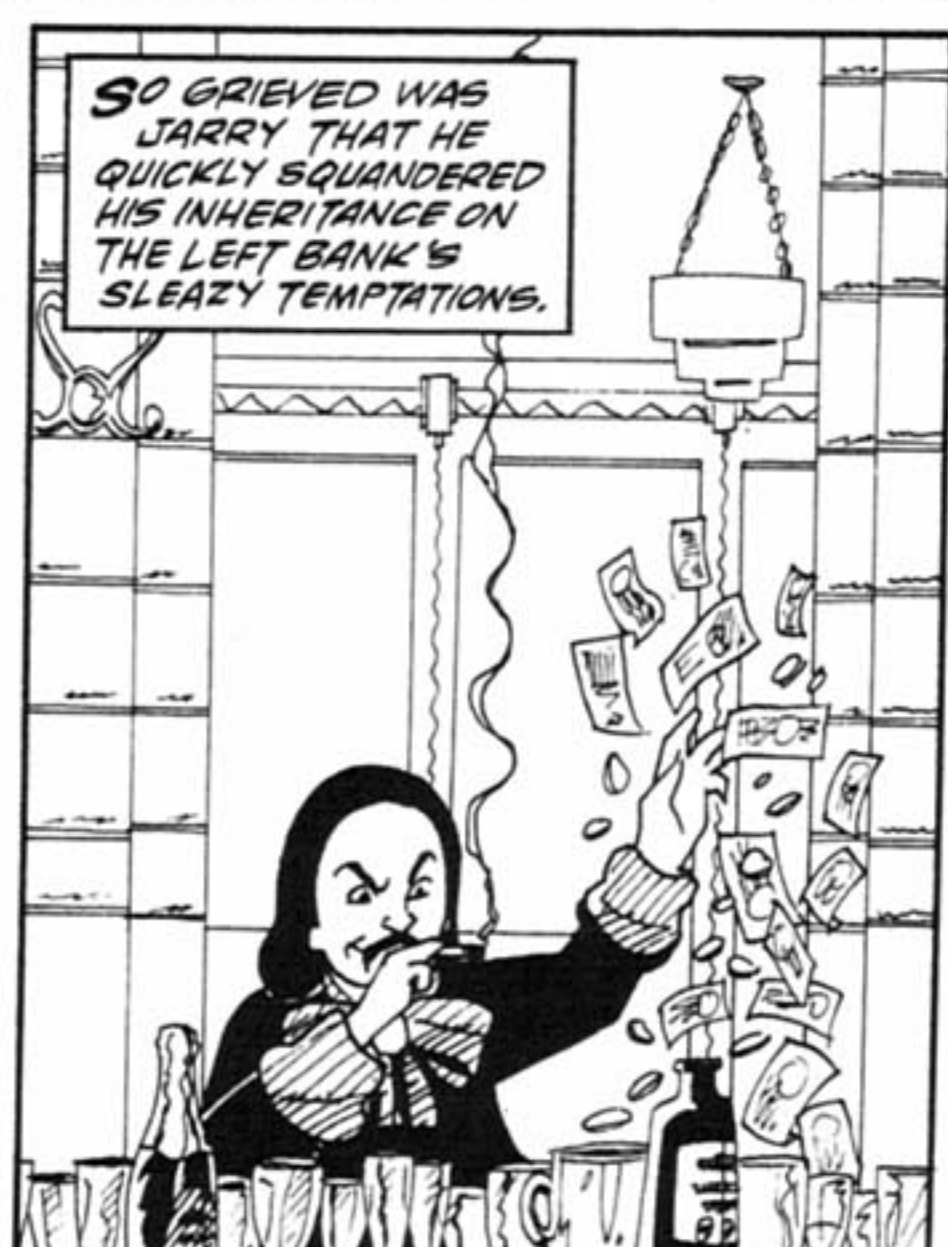
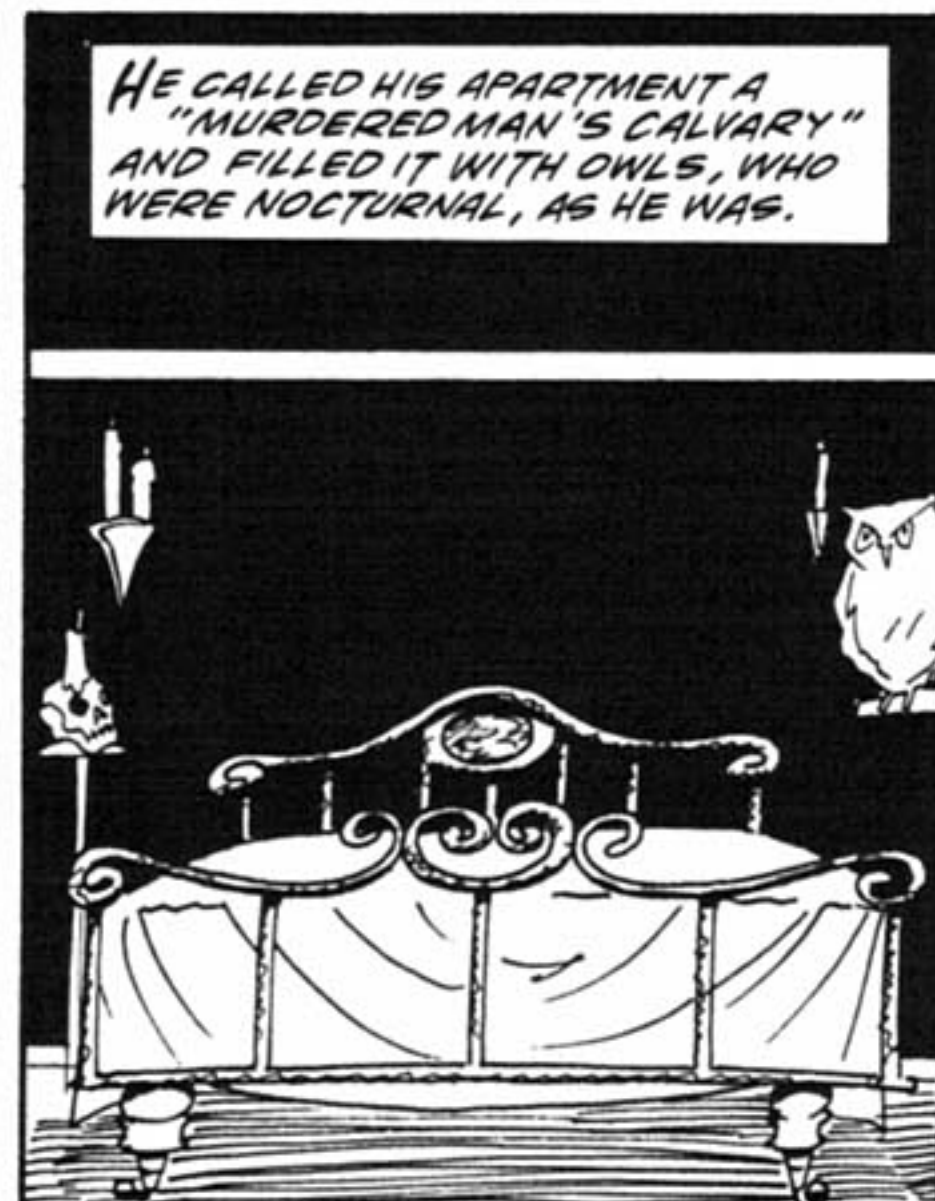
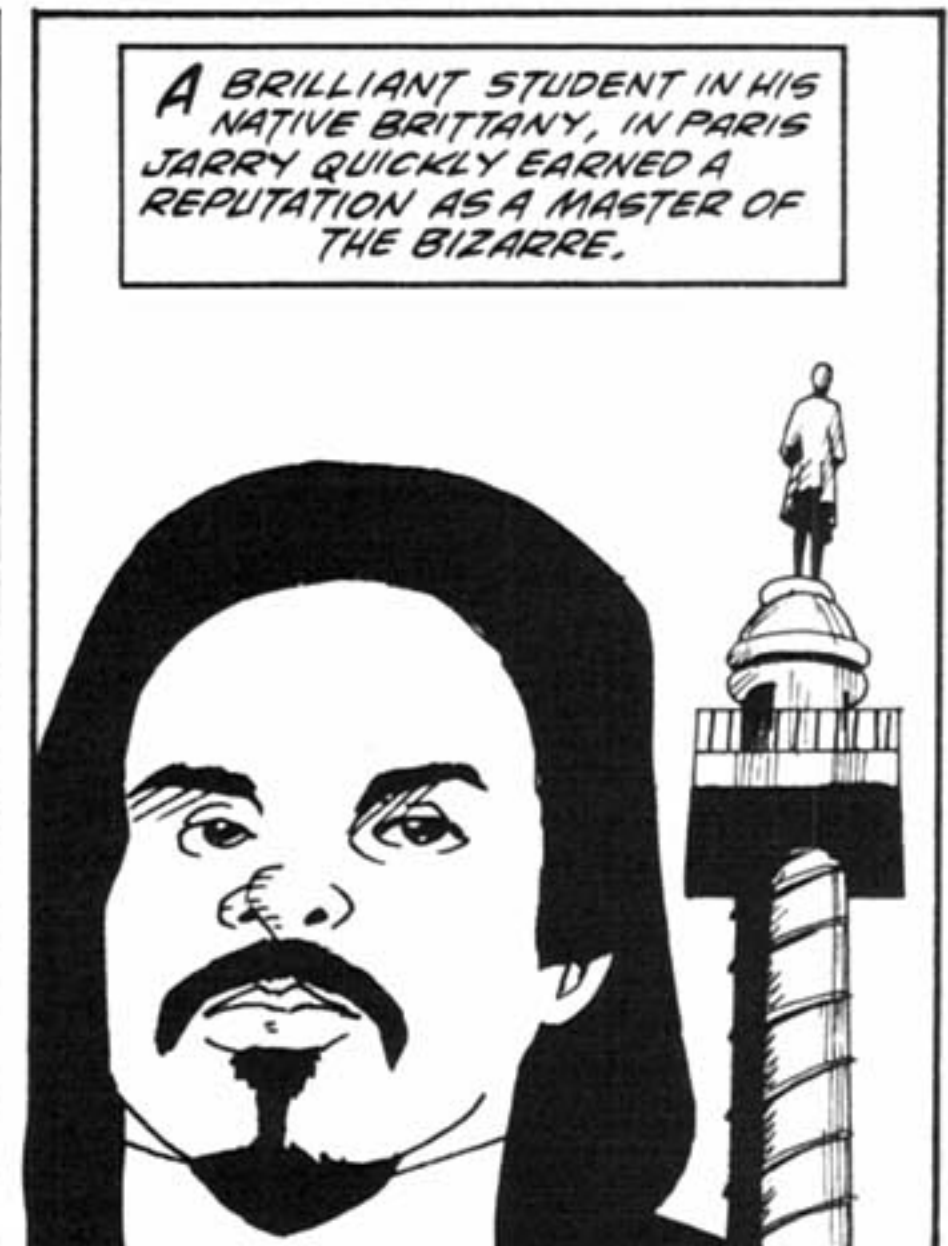
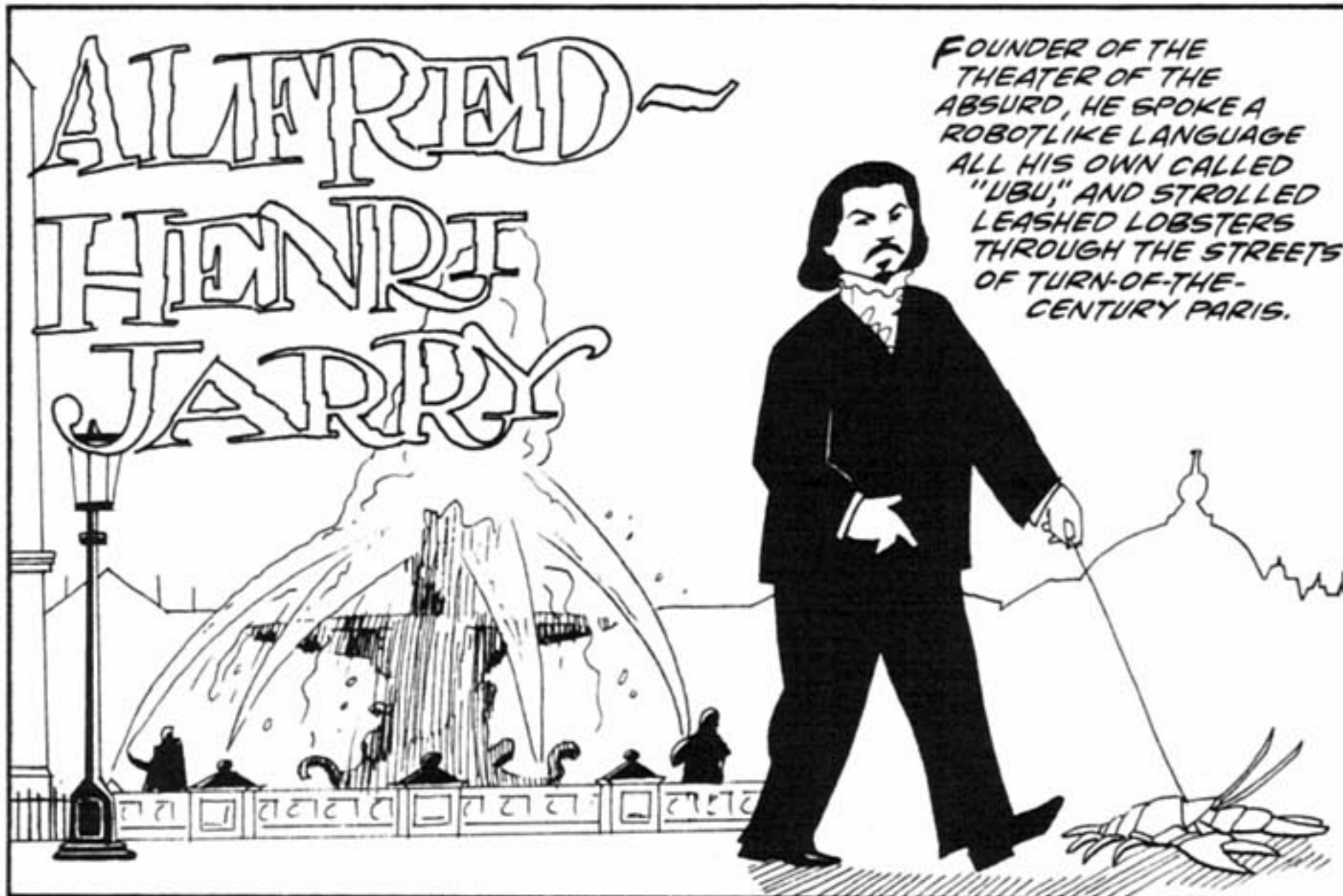




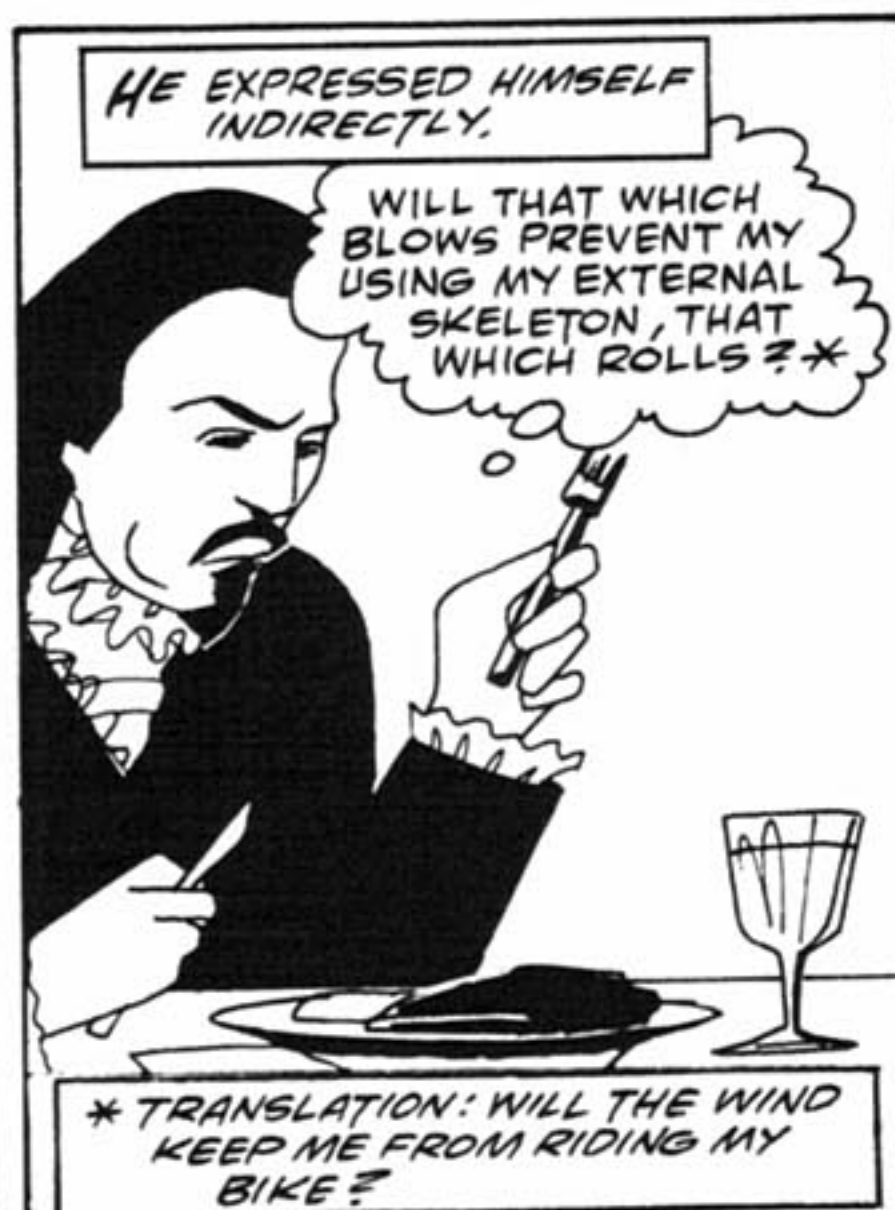
















BUT BY 1927, THE 49-YEAR-OLD SEEMED TO BE SETTLING DOWN IN THE FRENCH CITY OF NICE.



SHE'D HAD HER EYE ON A SPIFFY AMILCAR ROADSTER...





ISADORA WAS A SAN FRANCISCO GIRL, BORN THERE IN 1877 AND REARED BY HER MOTHER IN BOHEMIAN GENTILITY.



MAMA, I WANT TO BE A DANCER.

THEN, DARLING, THAT IS WHAT YOU SHALL BE.

SHE REBELLED IMMEDIATELY.



MISS DUNCAN - IF YOU DON'T MIND.

SHE BELIEVED DANCE SHOULD BE NATURAL, IMPROVISED RHYTHM AND BODY MOTIONS.



LIKE THE ANCIENT GREEKS DID IT.



YES, YES!

HER FAVORITE EXPRESSION.



AMERICANS FOUND HER MERELY WEIRD.

NO TASTE WHATSOEVER!

SHE SHOULD TRY BURLESQUE.



UNDETERRED, ISADORA HEADED FOR EUROPE - AND FAME.



THE SIGHT OF A PRETTY, BAREFOOTED, SCANTILY CLAD YOUNG FEMALE DANCER DREW ADMIRING CROWDS...



...AND CROWDS OF ADMIRING LOVERS. DANCE WAS NOT THE ONLY CONVENTION SHE'D REJECTED.

TWO DIFFERENT MEN GAVE HER A SON AND A DAUGHTER OUT OF WEDLOCK.



THE SCANDAL ADDED PIQUANCY TO HER FAME.



SHE ESTABLISHED DANCING SCHOOLS ACROSS THE CONTINENT, AND IN RUSSIA...



...WHERE, ON HER FIRST VISIT IN 1905, SHE CAUGHT THE EYE OF SERGEY DIAGHILEV, THE IMPRESARIO WHO HAD MADE NIJINSKI.

SHE IS EXTRAORDINARY! AN ARTISTIC GENIUS!



HER LIFE SEEMED TO TAKE FLIGHT. THEN, IN 1913...

DIERDRE... PATRICK... MON DIEU, WE ARE MOVING!



...TRAGEDY STRUCK.



The car in which Isadora's young children and their nanny drowned, being lifted from the Seine.

THE GRIEVING ISADORA QUICKLY BECAME PREGNANT AGAIN, THIS TIME BY AN ITALIAN SCULPTOR.



HER NEW SON LIVED ONLY A FEW MONTHS.



IN 1921 SHE VISITED THE NEWLY FORMED SOVIET UNION, WHERE SHE'D BECOME AN ICON OF REVOLUTIONARY DANCE.



AT LAST. AT LAST.

THEY LOVED HER.



ESPECIALLY REVOLUTIONARY POET SERGEY ALEKSANDROVICH YESENIN, 17 YEARS HER JUNIOR.



THEY MARRIED, AND WENT TO AMERICA ON TOUR.







# VASLAV NIJINSKY



FROM THE MOMENT HE STEPPED ON STAGE IN MOSCOW IN THE EARLY 1900'S, THE BALLET WORLD KNEW THAT VASLAV NIJINSKY WAS ONE OF HISTORY'S GREATEST DANCERS.



HIS ATHLETIC, ABANDONED STYLE UTTERLY CHARMED-- AND CHANGED-- THE WORLD OF BALLET.



BUT HE WAS POSSESSED BY MORE THAN TALENT.



WITHIN HIS QUIET, INARTICULATE SHELL, THERE BREWED A TERRIBLE MADNESS.



A LONELY, SILENT FIGURE OFFSTAGE, AND TERRIBLY SHY, HE WAS INCAPABLE OF EXPRESSING HIMSELF...



...EXCEPT THROUGH DANCE.



THERE HE COULD SAY ANYTHING.



HE'D BEEN BORN TO DANCE.

TO FLY.

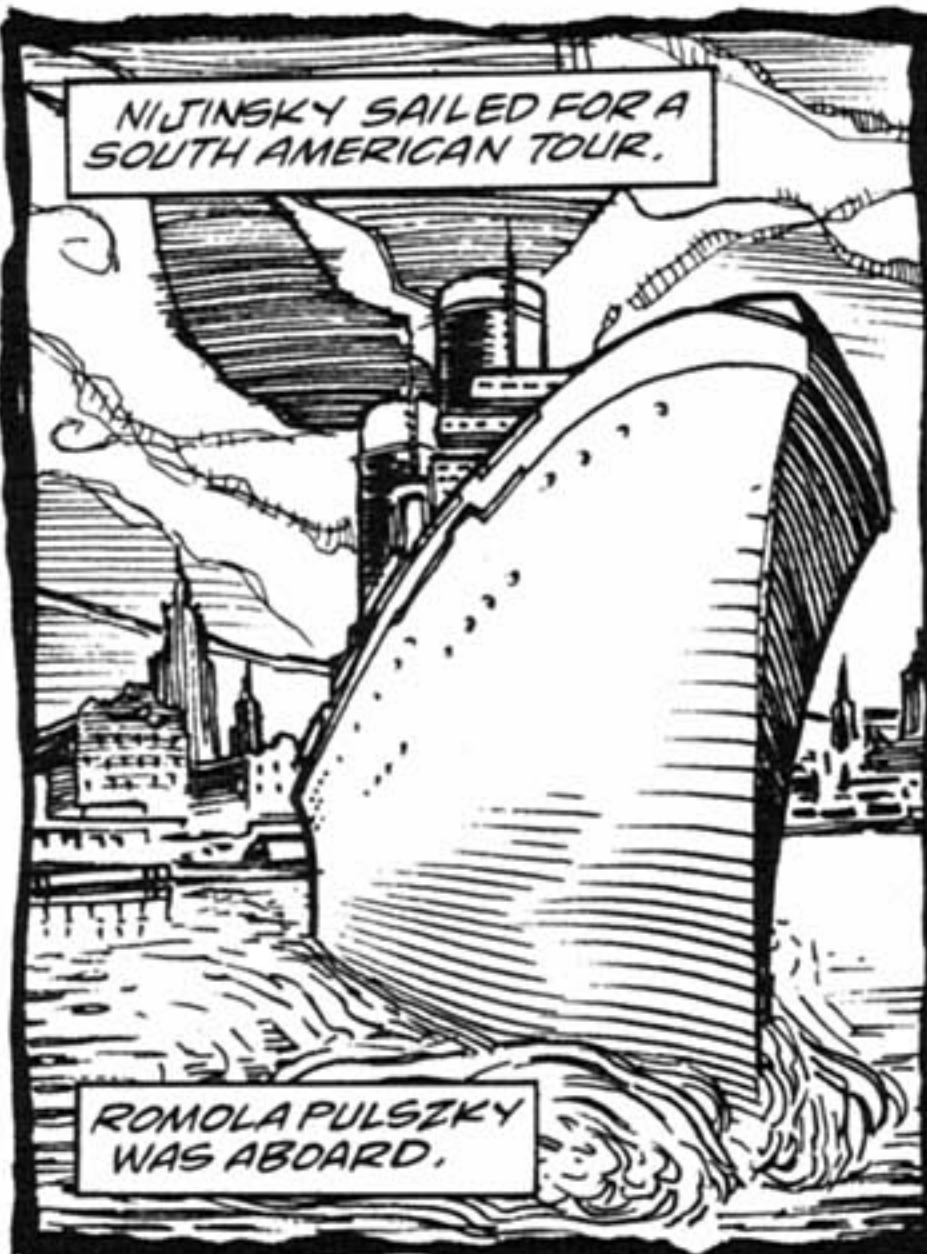


















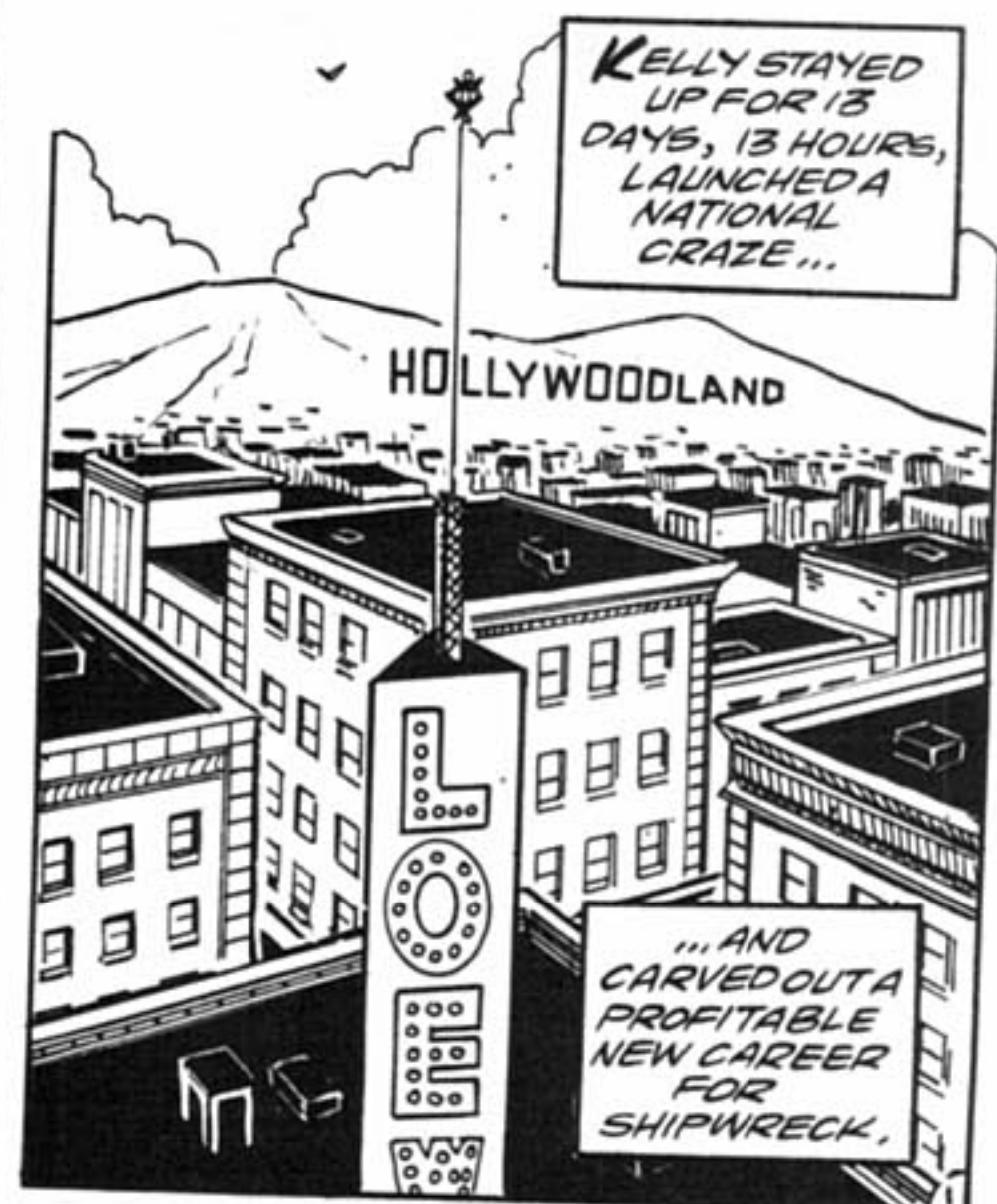
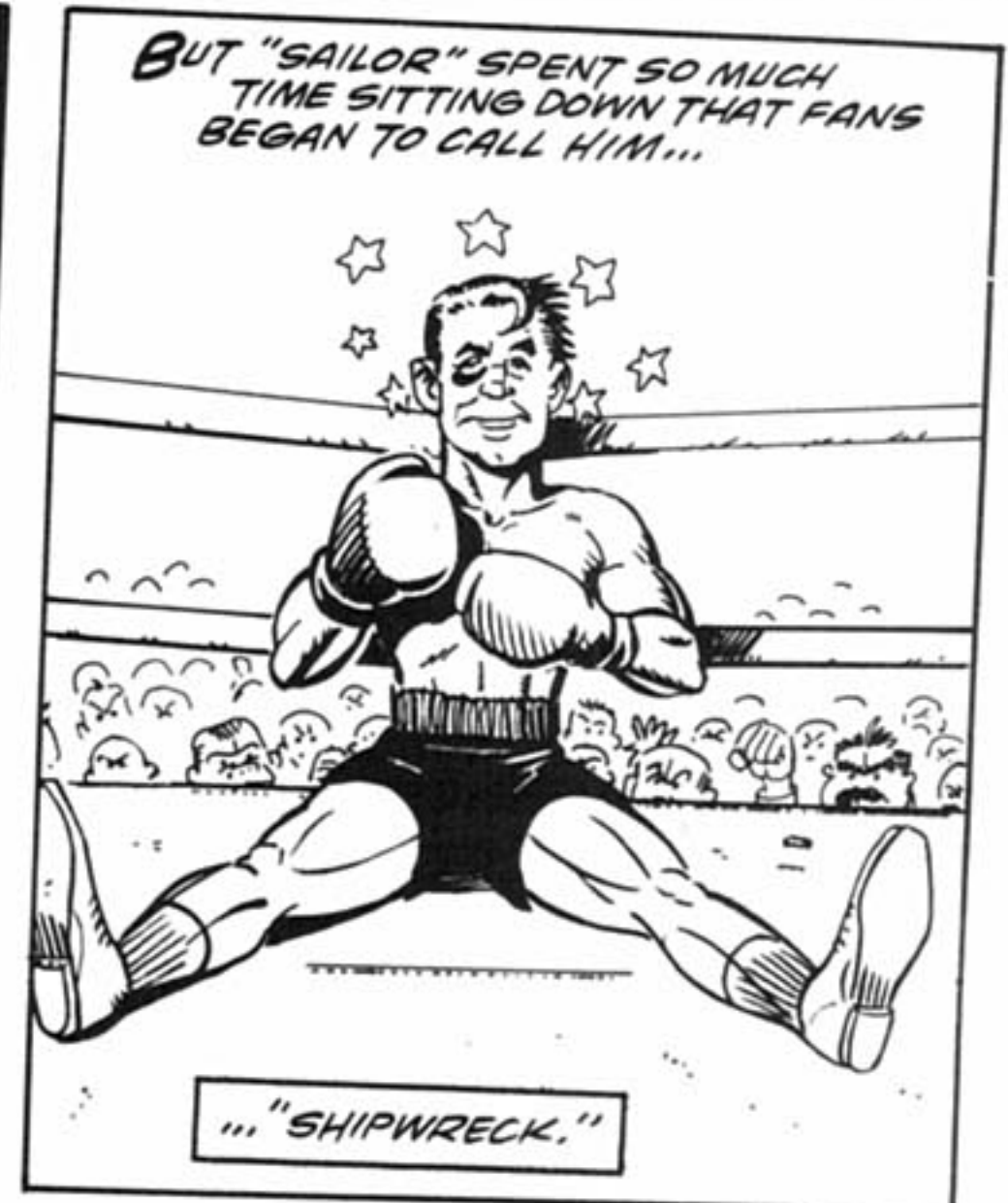
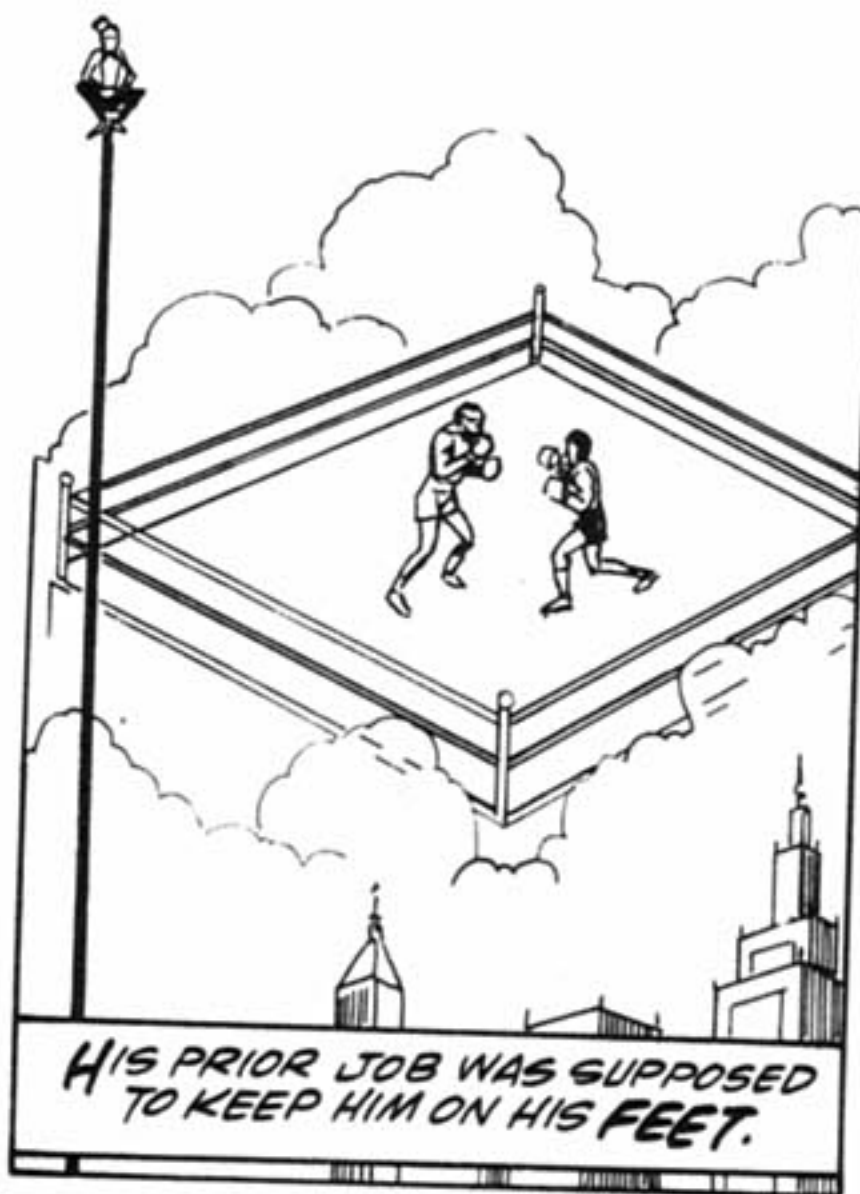
# CHAPTER SIX

## ARTS AND DAFT

### ENTERTAINERS AND ARTISTS

Society allows — perhaps even encourages — outrageous behavior by “creative types.” We go to extra lengths to tolerate their fetishes and compulsions, so long as the heights of their genius exceed the depths of their weirdness. For most of the weirdos in this section, meeting this criterion was no problem and so, with society’s blessing, they played up their individual eccentricities to the max. Salvador Dali (*page 138*), Andy Warhol (*page 135*), and Erich von Stroheim (*page 124*) all became as famous for their peculiar personalities as for their artistic contributions to the worlds of fine art and cinema. But for every high there’s a low, and here you’ll also find artistic casualties like Clara Bow (*page 126*), Ed Wood, Jr. (*page 128*) and even Vincent van Gogh (*page 131*). To an unsympathetic public, they were just too weird to be understood.









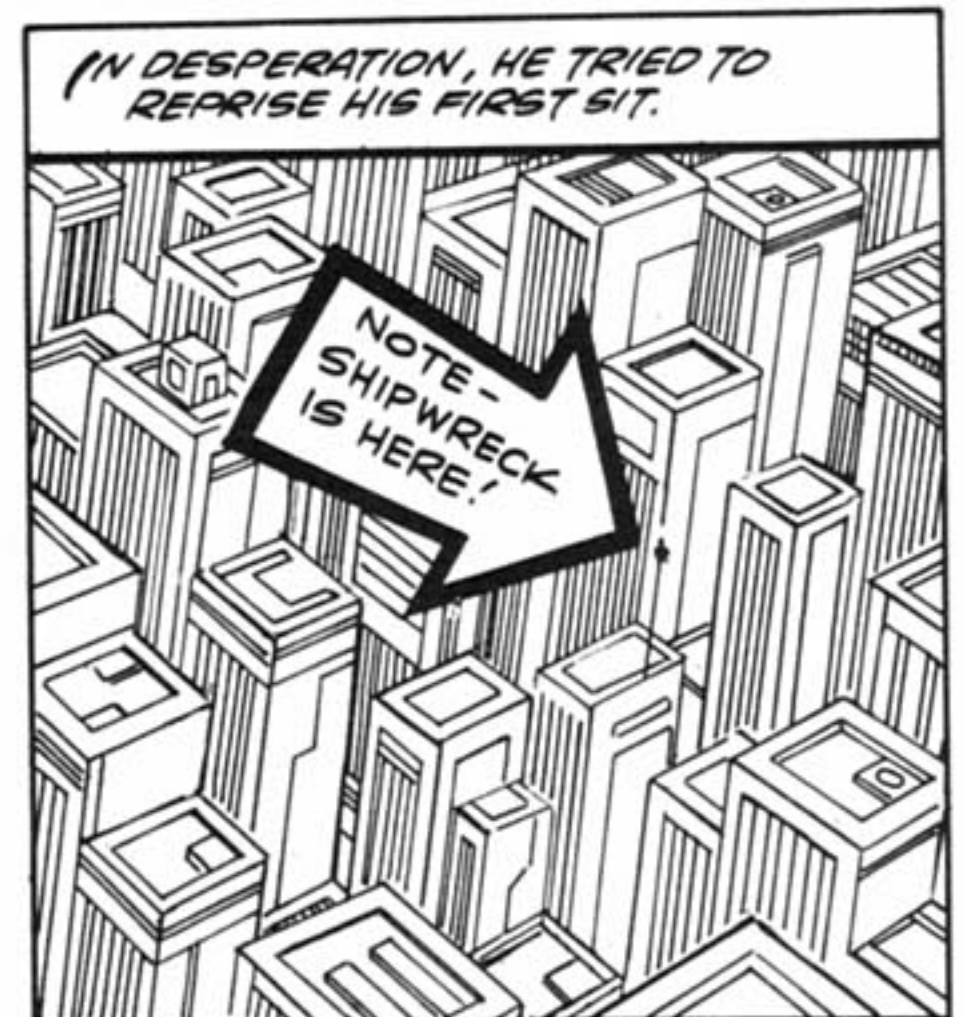
HE'D SIT ON ANY FLAGPOLE...



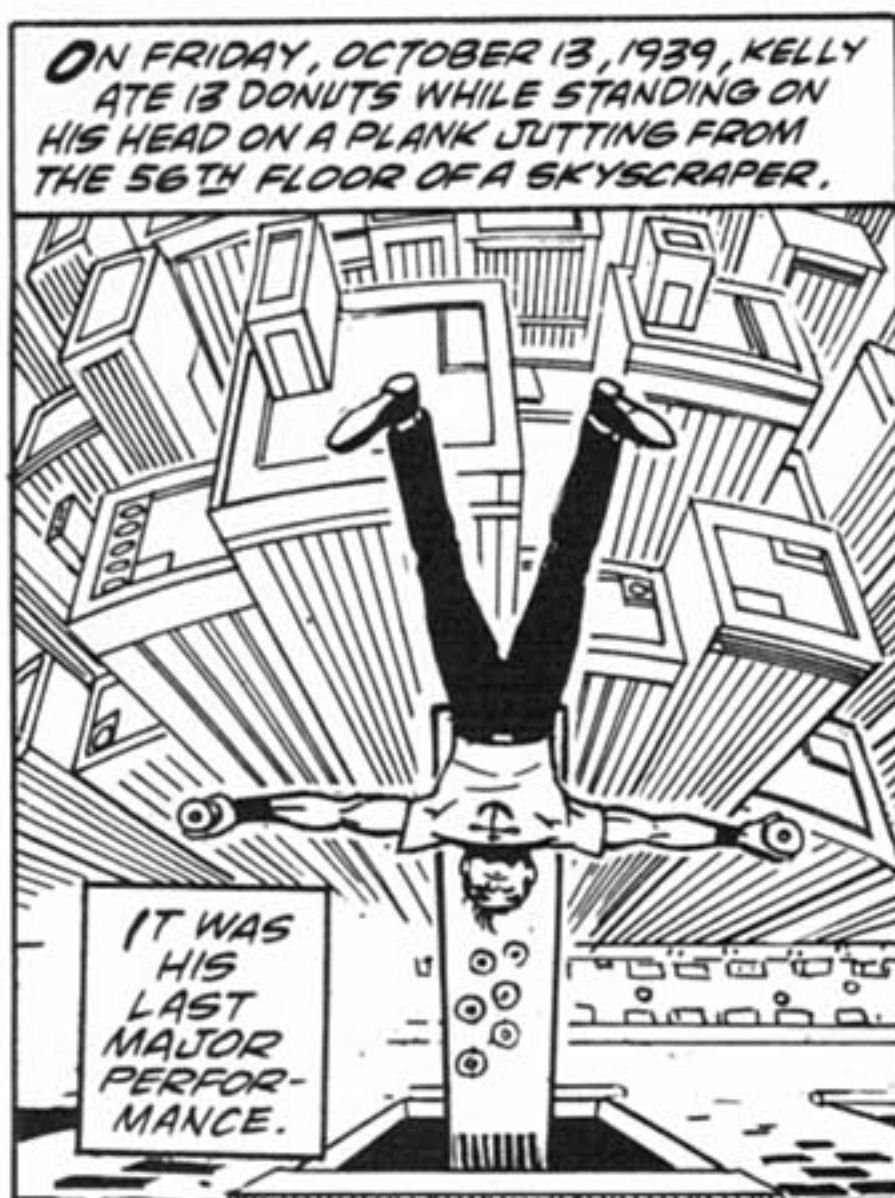
...ANYWHERE.



IN 1930, HE SPENT MORE THAN 49 DAYS ON ATLANTIC CITY'S STEEL PIER FLAGPOLE, TO THE DELIGHT OF 20,000 GAWKERS.



13 DAYS, 13 HOURS, AND 13 MINUTES ON THE FLAGPOLE OF NEW YORK'S PARAMOUNT HOTEL. THE STUNT EARNED \$13.





TO MANHATTANITES, THE BLIND MAN IN A VIKING COSTUME WAS JUST A CHARMING MUSICAL ECCENTRIC, CHANTING HIS LYRICS AND HUMMING HIS SONGS. EVERYBODY CALLED HIM...

MOONDOG



THEY CONSIDERED HIM A NEW YORK LANDMARK.



BORN LOUIS T. HARDIN IN KANSAS IN 1916, MOONDOG GREW UP IN WYOMING...

...WHERE A DYNAMITE CAP BLEW UP IN HIS FACE, DESTROYING HIS VISION WHEN HE WAS 16.

AT A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND IN IOWA, HE LEARNED ABOUT MUSIC --PLAYING IT, COMPOSING IT, HEARING IT.



MUSIC BECAME HIS LIFE.

IN 1943 HE CAME TO NEW YORK, WHERE THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC LET HIM DEVELOP HIS TALENT FOR COMPOSITION.

BUT HE WAS ALSO DRAWN TO THE SOUNDS AND SOULS OF THE RISING BEAT GENERATION.

HE TOOK THE NAME MOONDOG, ADOPTED VIKING DRESS, AND MADE HIS WAY RECITING POETRY AND SINGING HIS MUSIC.

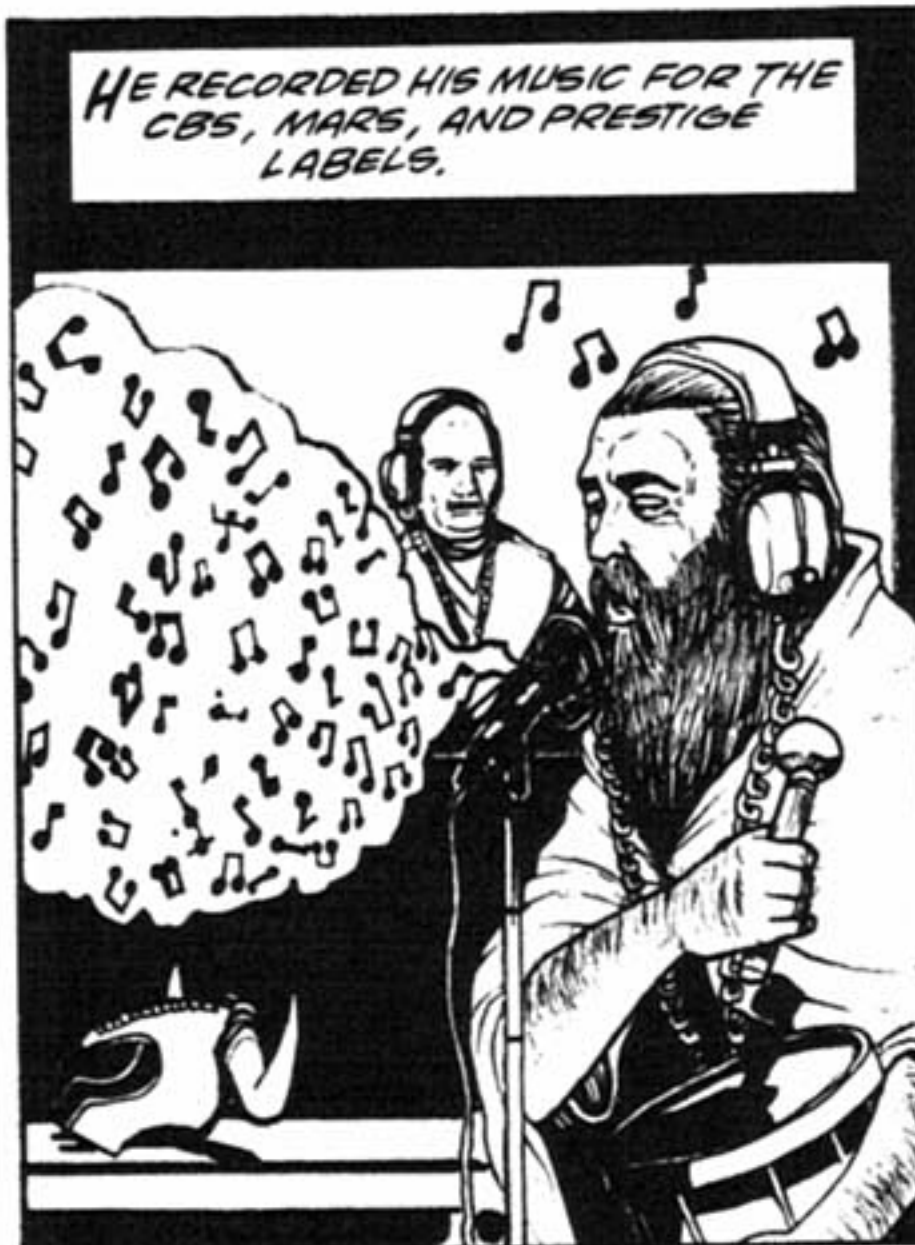


HE LOOKED LIKE JUST ANOTHER IMPOVERISHED DROPOUT.





FEW KNEW HE HAD A SECRET LIFE.



HE RECORDED HIS MUSIC FOR THE CBS, MARS, AND PRESTIGE LABELS.



IN 1974, HIS SECRET LIFE TOOK OVER. HE DISAPPEARED.

MOONDOG'S GONE,

YEAH, I HEARD HE DIED.



IN A WAY, HE DID. MOONDOG SURFACED IN A SMALL TOWN IN GERMANY, WHERE HE'D BEEN INVITED TO DO A RADIO SHOW-- AND HAD DECIDED TO SETTLE DOWN.



SINCE THEN, HE'S COMPOSED MORE THAN 40 JAZZ SYMPHONIES...

DUM-DE-DE-DUM...

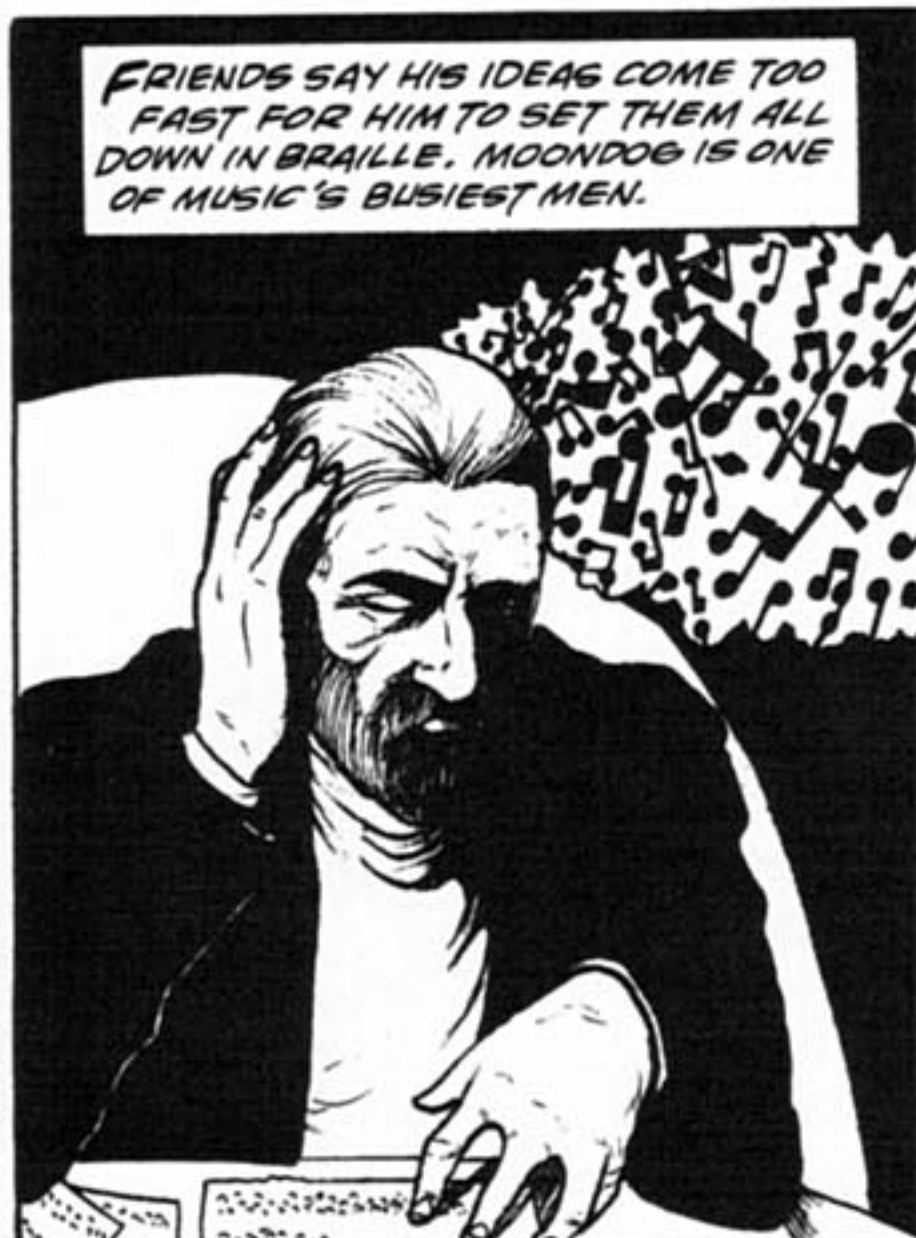


...AND TOURED EUROPE AND THE U.S.

AND NOW... MOONDOG...



HE CONDUCTED THE BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC.



FRIENDS SAY HIS IDEAS COME TOO FAST FOR HIM TO SET THEM ALL DOWN IN BRAILLE. MOONDOG IS ONE OF MUSIC'S BUSIEST MEN.



IT'S NOT THE SAME WITHOUT OLD MOONDOG.

YEAH.

BUT FOR MANY, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PECULIAR EMPTY SILENCE ON THE SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK.



# ERICH VON STROHEIM

ERICH VON STROHEIM WAS ONE OF THE GREAT FILM DIRECTORS TO EMERGE AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR... A TALENT THAT SHAPED THE WAY PEOPLE WOULD MAKE MOTION PICTURES FOR A GENERATION!



BENEATH HIS STERN EXTERIOR, HOWEVER, HE WAS JUST A BOY FROM VIENNA WHOSE REAL NAME WAS HANS ERICH MARIA STROHEIM VON NORDONWALL...

CHUST CALL ME VON!



HE ARRIVED IN AMERICA IN 1914...



...AND BECAME AN ASSISTANT TO FILM GREAT D.W. GRIFFITH ON SUCH CLASSICS AS...



...THE BIRTH OF A NATION!



STROHEIM'S OWN MASTERPIECE WAS CALLED "GREED," A BLEAK, REALISTIC TALE OF THE CORRUPTING POWER OF MONEY THAT RAN FOR 10 HOURS!



HE BECAME FAMOUS FOR HIS UNCOMPROMISING REALISM, HIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL... AND HIS EXTRAVAGANCE!



WHEN HE TOOK A HAND AS AN ACTOR, HE USUALLY PLAYED A SADISTIC PRUSSIAN OFFICER...



...SOME SAID HE PLAYED THE PART TOO WELL!



FOR FILMS LIKE "THE MERRY WIDOW," STROHEIM RECREATED OLD VIENNA—PROSTITUTES, ORGIES, AND ALL—WITH HIS CUSTOMARY EYE TO REALISM!



IT SOMETIMES TOOK 20 HOURS TO SHOOT A BORDELLO ORGY—ALWAYS ON A CLOSED SET...



THE "EXTRAS" DINED ON SQUAB AND REAL CHAMPAGNE—IN THE HEART OF PROHIBITION!



NO ONE DARED SHOW SUCH STUFF, HOWEVER! THE HAYS OFFICE CENSORS MADE SURE STROHEIM'S BIG SCENES STAYED ON THE CUTTING-ROOM FLOOR!

THEN THE HOLLYWOOD ESTABLISHMENT WENT AFTER HIM...



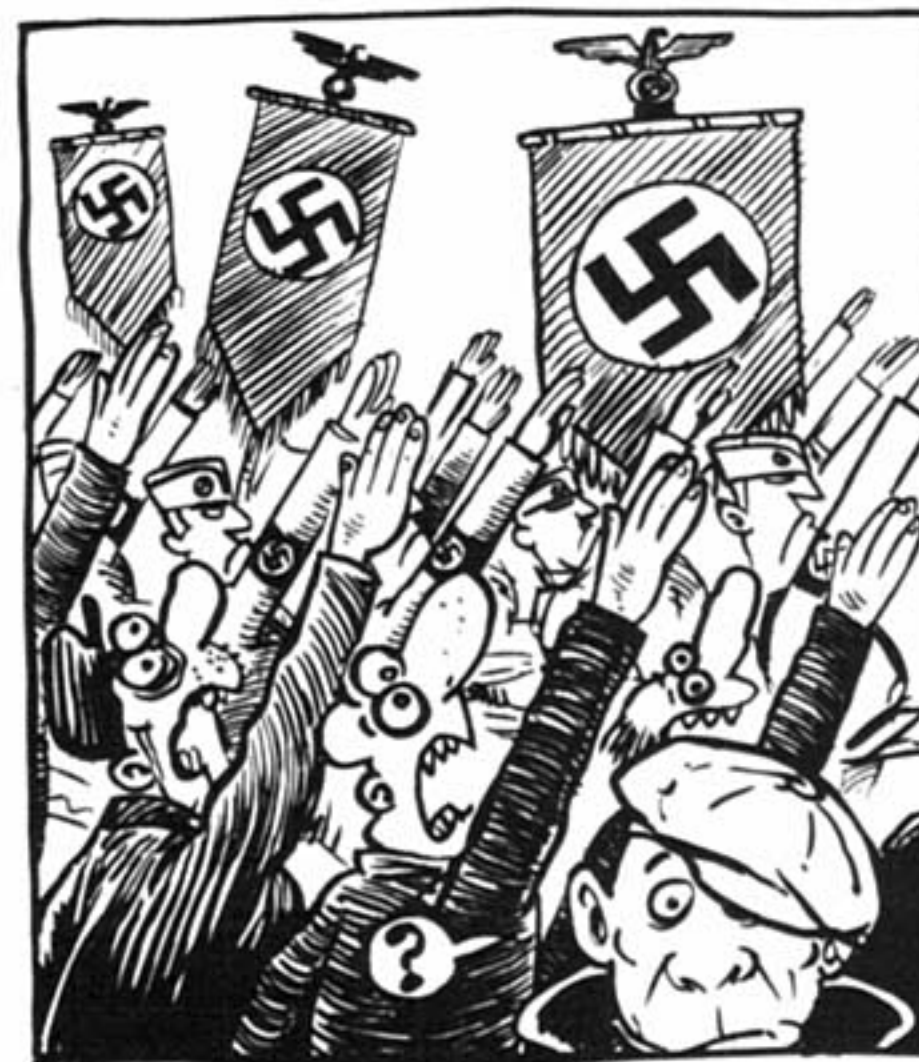
PEOPLE CALLED HIM A DIRTY HUN! THEY SAID HE WAS A SADIST!



TINSELTOWN WON...



IN THE MID-1930'S, ERICH VON STROHEIM WENT HOME TO EUROPE...



... WHERE SOME REAL SADISTS WERE JUST GETTING STARTED!





# CLARA BOW

... WAS THE HOTTEST JAZZ BABY IN MOTION PICTURES, THE ACTRESS EVERYONE WANTED TO LOOK LIKE WHILE THE 1920S ROARED.



THE BROOKLYN-BORN BEAUTY WAS MAKING IT IN SILENT FILMS BEFORE SHE TURNED 20.



THEN, IN 1927, SHE PLAYED THE LEAD IN THE FILM "IT"... AND WAS SOON FAMOUS AS THE IT GIRL...



... A ROLE SHE BEGAN TO PLAY OFF-SCREEN, AS WELL AS ON.



PEOPLE WATCHED FOR THE RED-HAIRED FLAPPER IN HER ATTENTION-GRABBING RED KISSEL CONVERTIBLE WITH TWO MATCHING CHOW DOGS.



SHE NEVER DISAPPOINTED. THERE WAS THE FAMOUS "LOVE BALM ROMANCE" WITH DOC PEARSON...



... THAT COST HER \$30,000 FOR ALIENATING HIS AFFECTIONS FROM MRS. PEARSON.



CLARA DIDN'T CARE. THERE WAS PLENTY MORE DOUGH WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

















BRIDE OF THE MONSTER CONFIRMED THOSE SUSPICIONS.



THEN CAME 1956, AND THE WATERSHED OF WOOD'S CAREER: PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE...



GREETINGS, MY FRIEND. WE ARE ALL INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE, FOR THAT IS WHERE WE ARE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES...



... AND TRADEMARK ED WOOD THOUGHTS.

WOOD'S LATER FILMS, LIKE ORGY OF THE DEAD... WELL, THEY WERE NO PLAN 9.



WOOD WAS ON THE SKIDS.



ED WAS MARRIED TO KATHY WOOD FOR 20 YEARS.



"I STILL REMEMBER WHEN I WENT INTO THAT ROOM THAT AFTERNOON AND HE WAS DEAD. HIS EYES WERE WIDE OPEN. AS LONG AS I LIVE, I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LOOK IN HIS EYES."



IT LOOKED LIKE HE'D SEEN HELL. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE SAW IN THOSE LAST FEW MOMENTS? WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE SAW?



JUST A GUESS: ORGY OF THE DEAD? TAKE IT OUT IN TRADE? PLAN 9?





# VINCENT VAN GOGH

...THE DUTCH IMPRESSIONIST  
PAINTER OF THE 19TH CENTURY,  
IS RANKED WITH HIS FAMOUS  
COMPATRIOT REMBRANDT AS  
ONE OF THE GREATEST  
ARTISTS OF ALL TIME.



FEW HAVE SEEN  
THE WORLD MORE  
VIVIDLY.



HIS ROUGH STROKES,  
HIS VIBRANT COLORS,  
WERE PART OF HIS  
SPECIAL VISION...



...ONE THAT SAW THE WORLD  
THROUGH A LENS OF  
MADNESS.



WITH EACH LEAP IN BRILLIANCE  
ON HIS CANVAS, HOWEVER, HE  
MARKED ANOTHER STEP ON HIS  
OWN AGONIZING JOURNEY  
TOWARD UTTER, FINAL DESPAIR.



HE WAS BORN IN HOLLAND IN  
1853, THE ELDEST OF SIX  
CHILDREN...



...AND THE  
LONELIEST.



HE BECAME SOLITARY EARLY  
ON, AS HE SEARCHED FOR  
WHAT HE WOULD DO WITH HIS  
LIFE.

I WANT  
TO HELP.  
BUT...HOW?





HE TRIED TO BE A MISSIONARY TO THE POOR COAL MINERS OF BELGIUM.



THEIR POVERTY BROKE HIS HEART.

HERE, TAKE WHAT I HAVE... IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S YOURS. HERE...



VAN GOGH WAS FIRED WHEN HE GAVE AWAY ALL HIS EARTHLY GOODS.

YOU'RE JUST TOO CHRISTIAN FOR US, VINCENT.



IN A WAY, IT WAS SALVATION.

VAN GOGH BEGAN TO TEACH HIMSELF TO DRAW...



... AND DRAW, AND DRAW.

I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. I'LL NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL.



BY 1886, HE'D BECOME AN ACCOMPLISHED, BUT STILL ORDINARY, PAINTER.



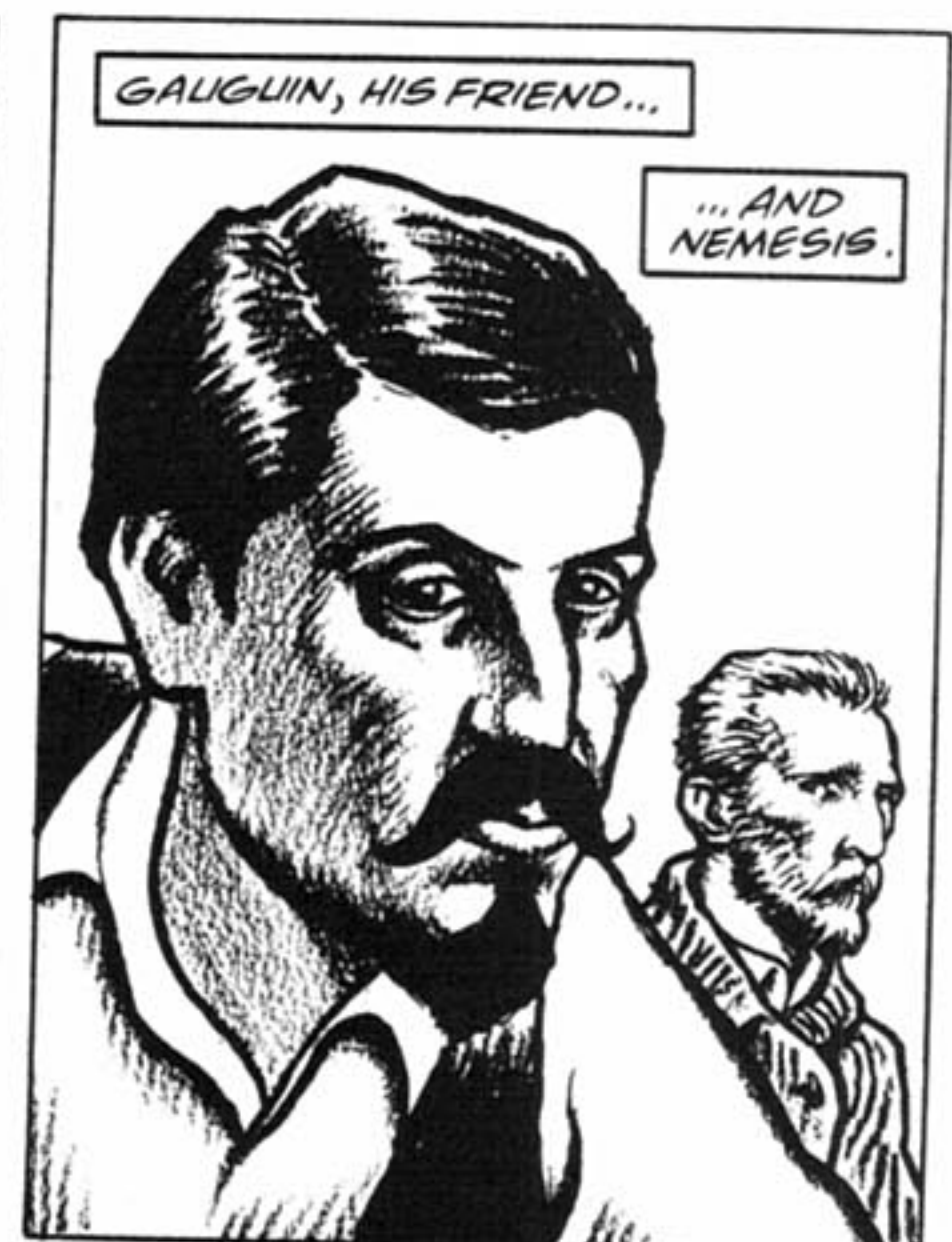
HE VISITED HIS BROTHER, THEO, A MARGINALLY SUCCESSFUL ART DEALER.

AH, MY ARTISTIC OLDER BROTHER. WELCOME TO PARIS, VINCENT.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW EXCITING IT IS TO BE HERE, THEO.



IN PARIS, VINCENT MET THE GREAT IMPRESSIONISTS OF THE DAY: TOULOUSE-LAUTREC, PISSARRO, SEURAT, GAUGUIN...



GAUGUIN, HIS FRIEND...

... AND NEMESIS.

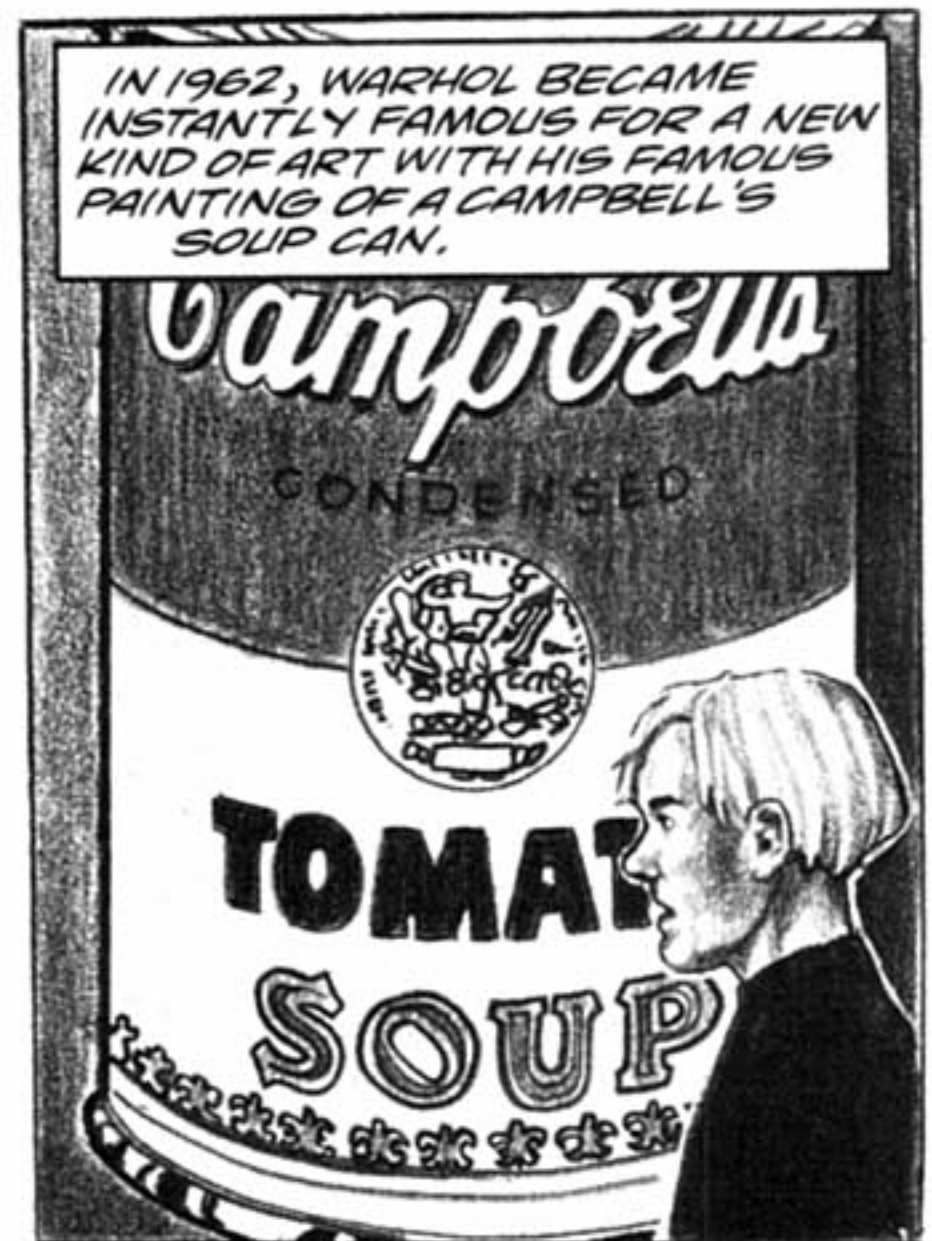
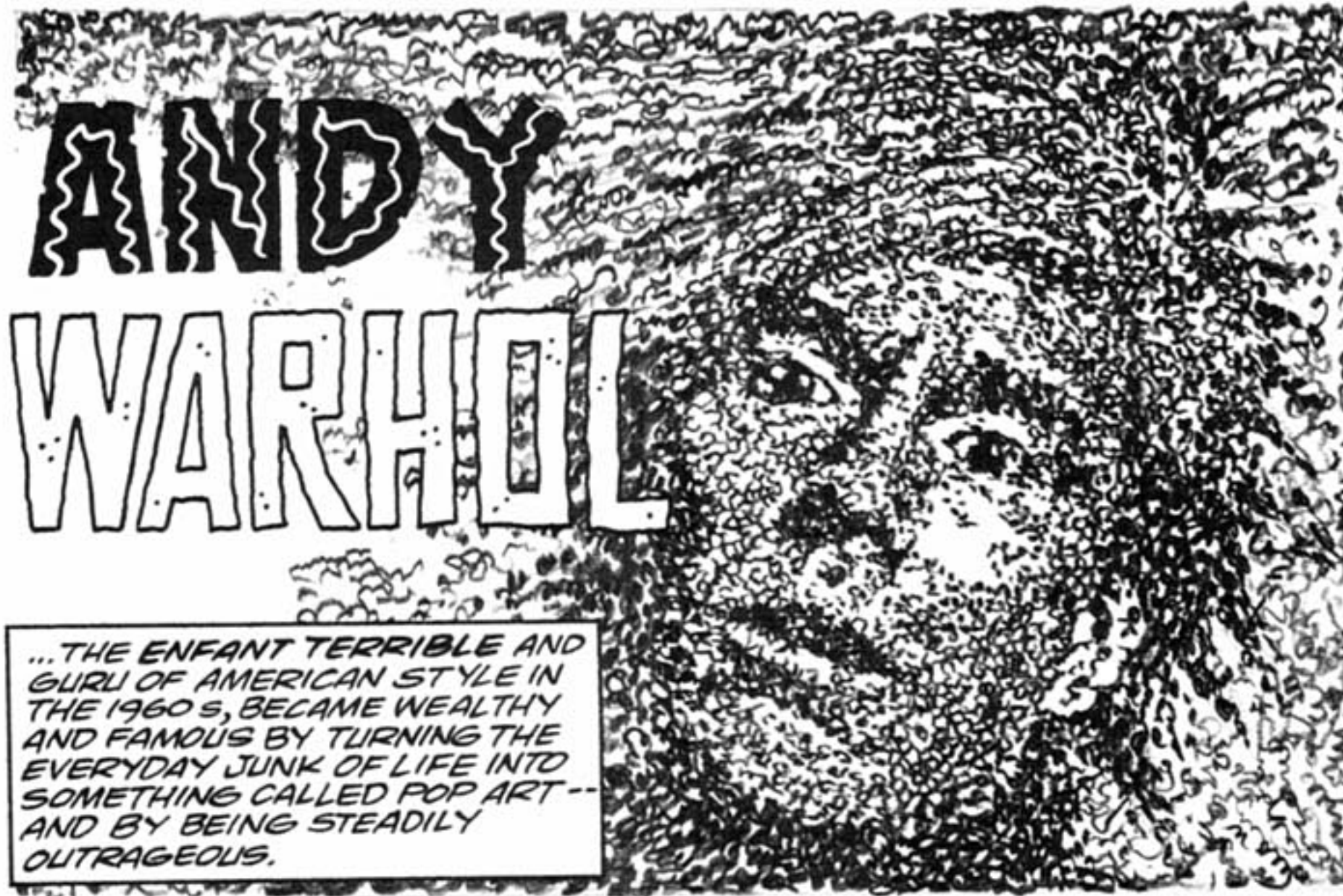














FAME BROUGHT ARDENT FOLLOWERS TO THE NEW YORK STUDIO-CUM-CLUB-CUM-TEMPLE THAT WARHOL CALLED THE FACTORY.



PEOPLE WHO LONGED TO BE ANDYS THEMSELVES.



PEOPLE WHO LONGED TO PLAY PEOPLE LIKE THEMSELVES IN ANDY'S MOVIES.



TOUCH ME...  
FEEL ME...  
KNOW ME.

HIS FILMS WERE AS ECCENTRICALLY NON-CONFORMIST AS HIS ART.



PLOTLESS, ANGRY, AND EROTIC, THEY CELEBRATED A FUNNY BRAND OF DRUGGED EROTIC HORROR.



ONE FILM WAS 25 HOURS LONG.



HIS LIFE BEGAN TO BE AS UNUSUAL AS HIS ART.



HE WOULD BINGE ON CHOCOLATES AND THEN EAT NOTHING FOR DAYS.

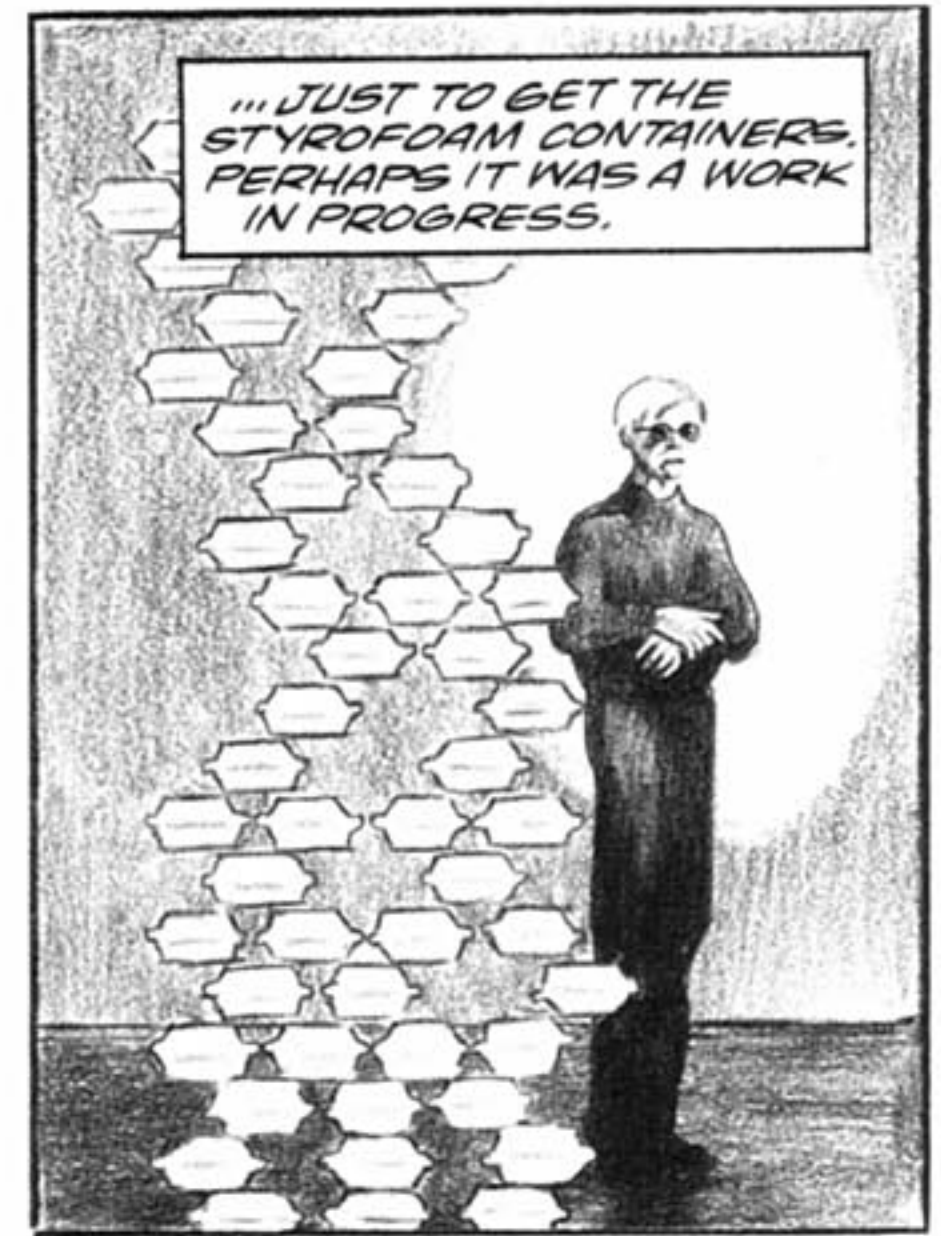


NOTHING... BUT GARLIC.



HE DRENCHED HIMSELF WITH PERFUME TO CONCEAL THE SMELL.







# salvador Dali

...THE SURREALIST PAINTER WHO CREATED BIZARRE IMAGES OF THE WORLD AS THE HUMAN UNCONSCIOUS MIGHT SEE IT -- AND MADE HIMSELF A LIVING SYMBOL OF ALL THAT WAS PECULIAR IN THE REALM OF ART.

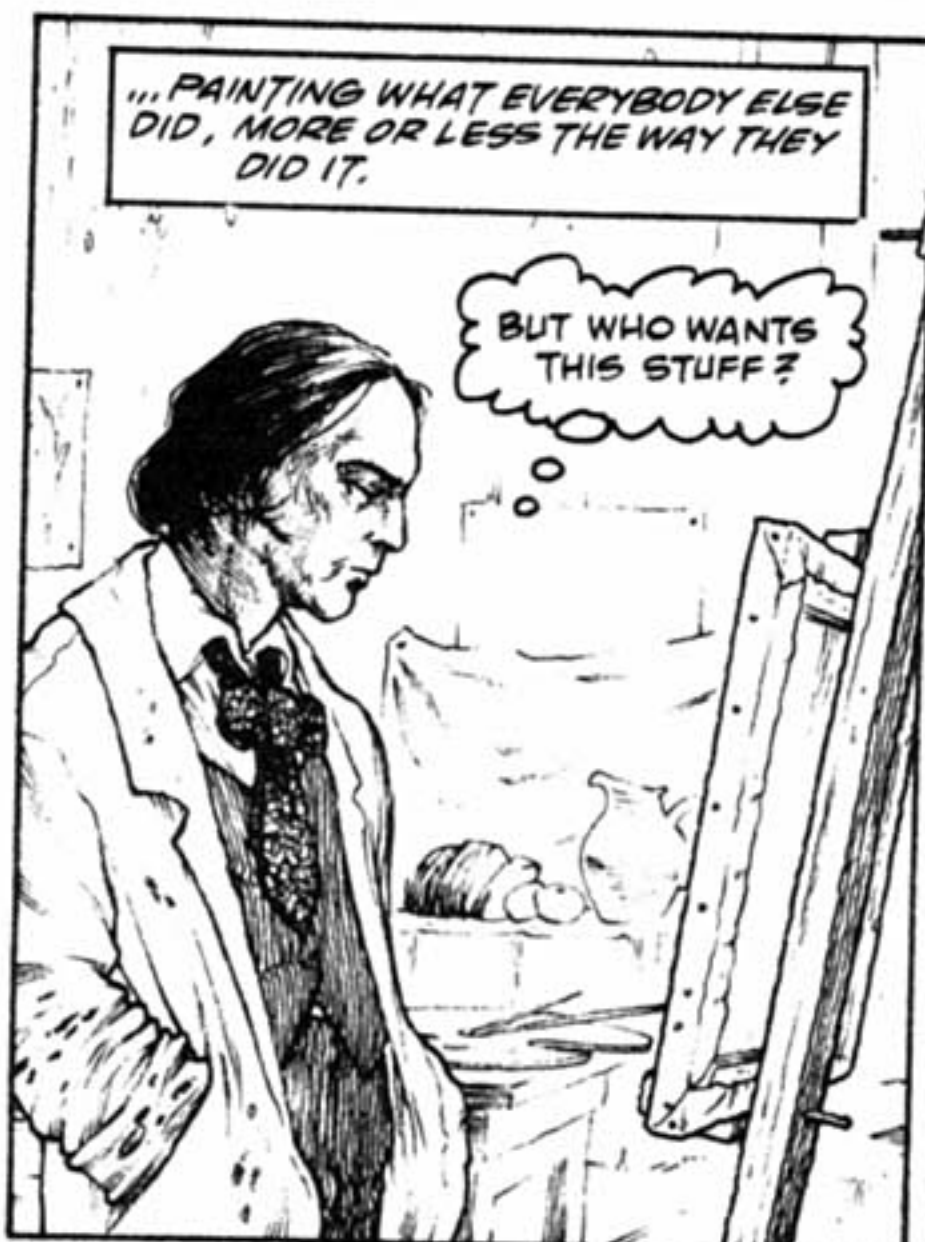


BORN FELIPE JACINTO IN FIGUERAS, SPAIN, IN 1902, DALI'S ARTISTIC CAREER BEGAN RATHER CONVENTIONALLY...



...PAINTING WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE DID, MORE OR LESS THE WAY THEY DID IT.

BUT WHO WANTS THIS STUFF?



THEN HE DISCOVERED AUSTRIAN PSYCHIATRIST SIGMUND FREUD...



... AND THE EROTICALLY CHARGED LANDSCAPE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND.



THAT WAS THE WORLD TO PAINT.



IN DALI'S WORLD SOLID OBJECTS MELTED LIKE HOT WAX, FLOATED IN THE AIR, CHANGED FORM.

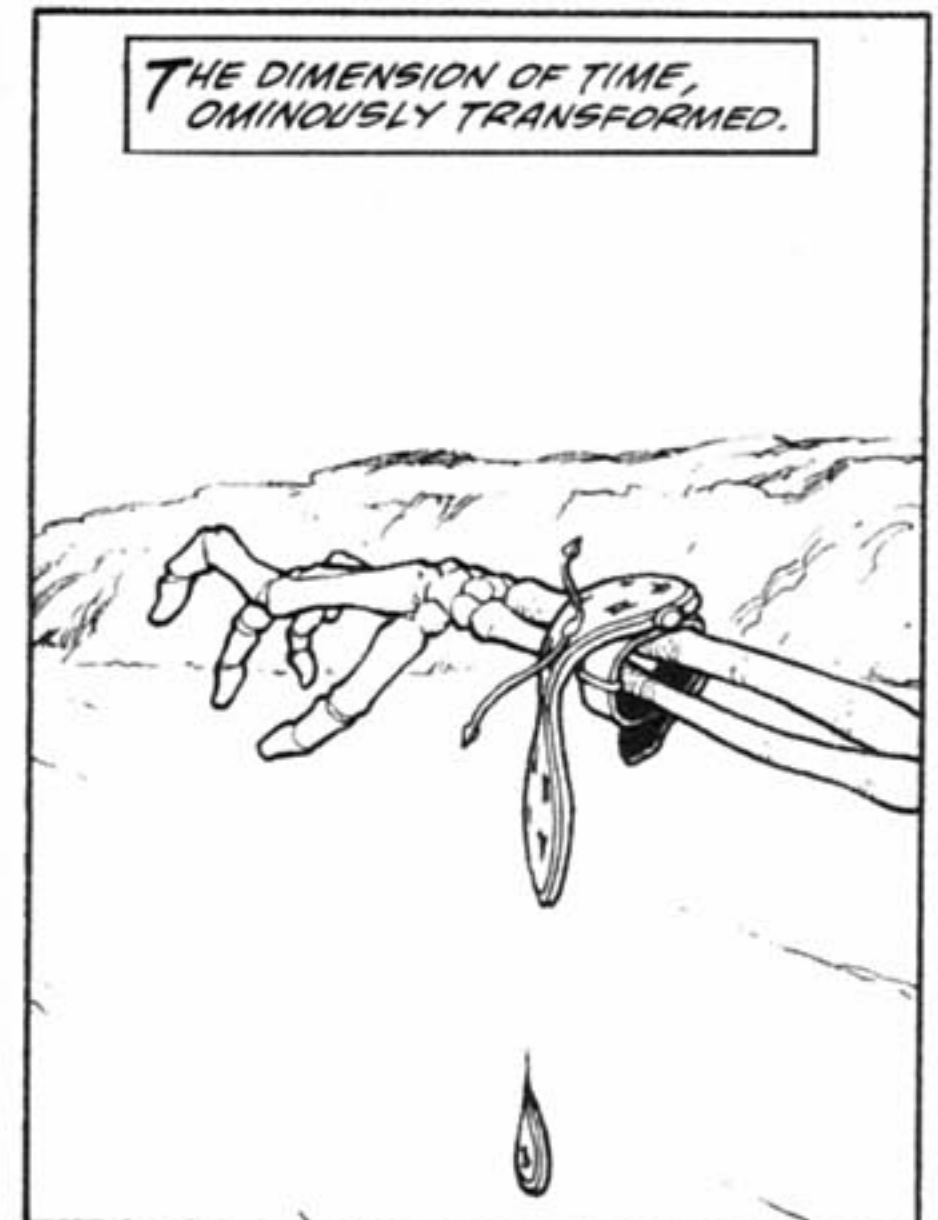
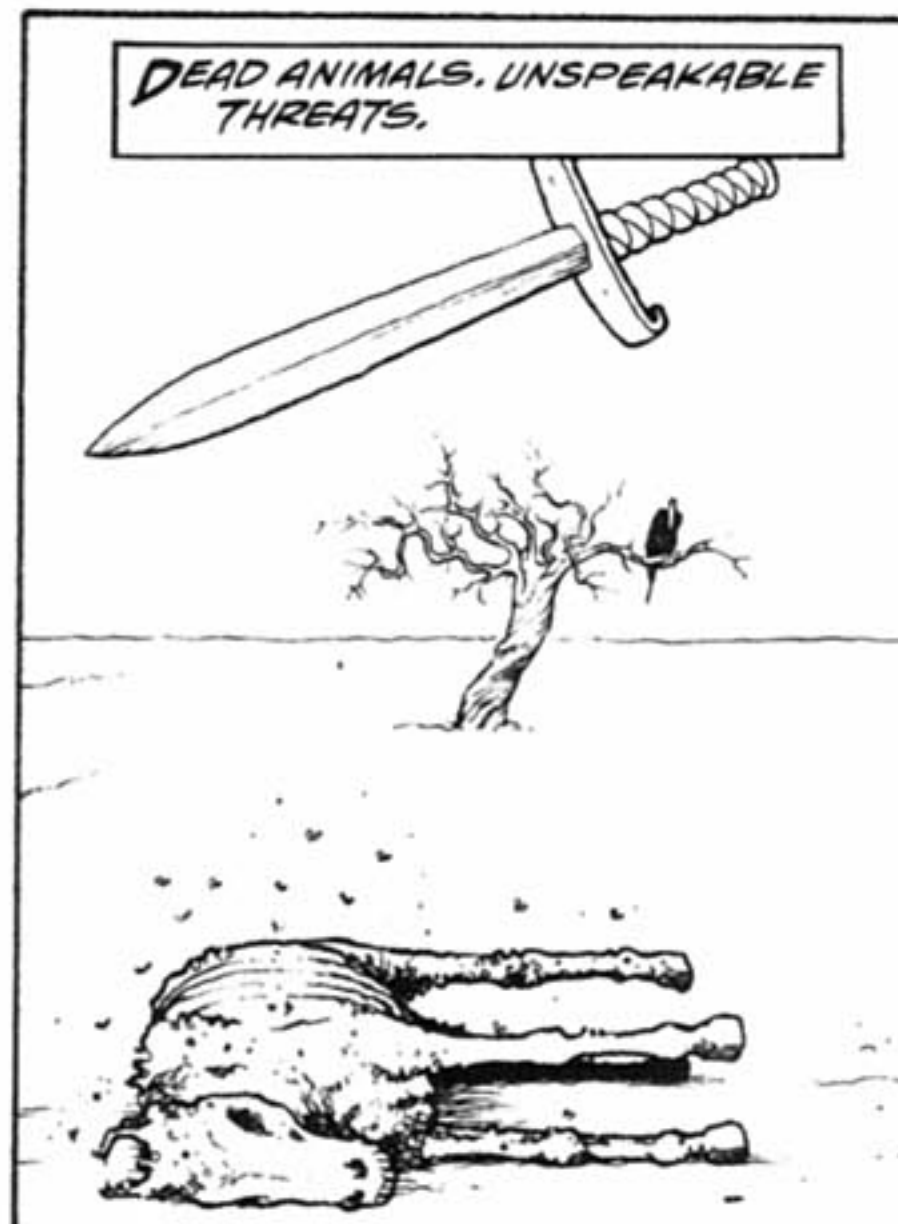


FORGET REASON. OUR SUBCONSCIOUS IS THE GREATEST REALITY.

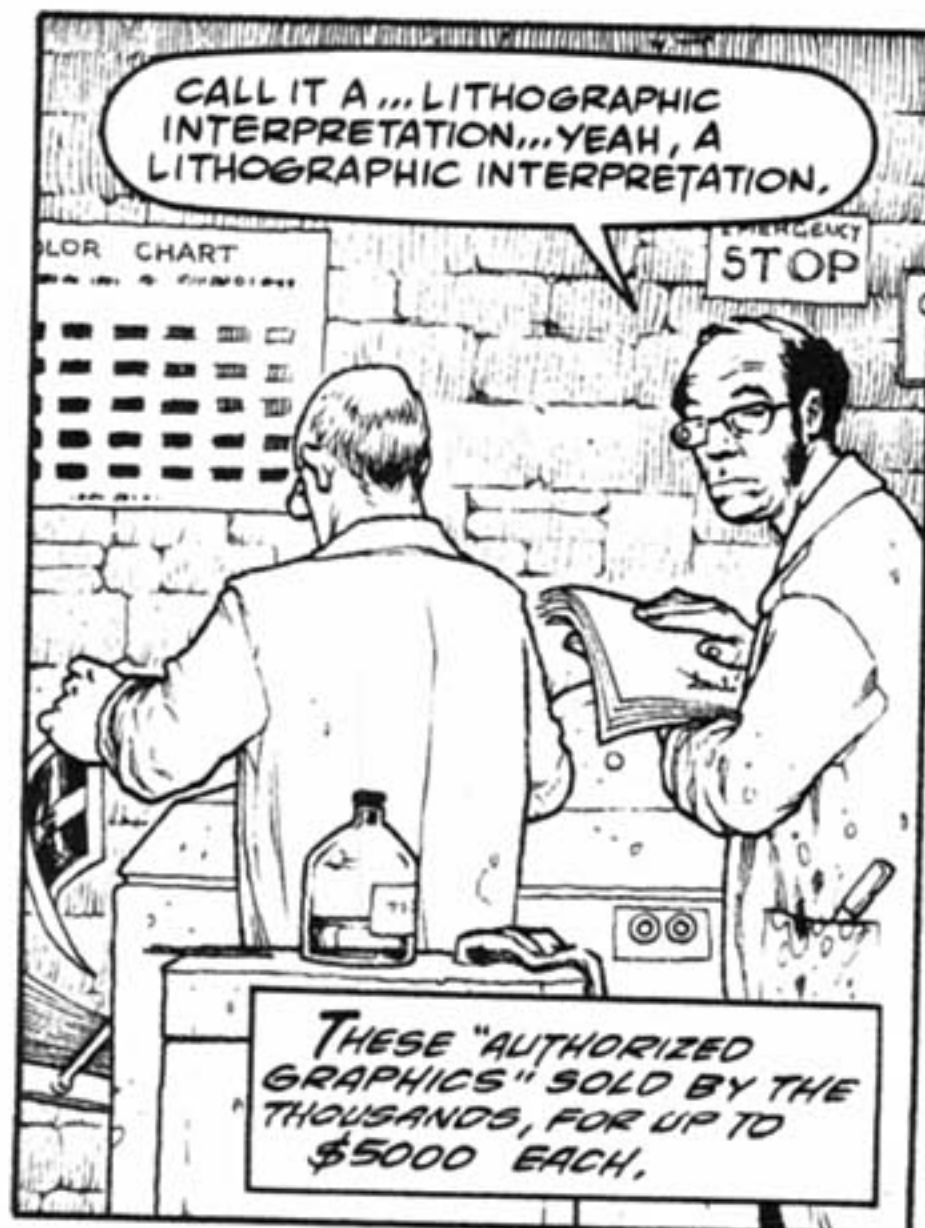


OF COURSE, STRANGE ART IS HELPED BY STRANGER BEHAVIOR.











# CHAPTER SEVEN

## TECHNICALLY BENT

### INVENTORS AND SCIENTISTS

What's amazing about the scientific process is that sometimes it isn't a process at all. Sometimes, ideas come from thin air. Without precedent, without reason, ideas drop into the minds of inventors, scientists, and even a naturalist or two. We call it inspiration — it takes shape in the subconscious and bursts into the light of day fully formed and ready to change the world. It's a light bulb. It's an assembly line. It's a lobotomy. It's truly amazing things, thought up by truly amazing people. But inspiration has its price. Not *all* ideas are *good* ideas — and the ability to distinguish the difference, to act on the good ideas while discarding the bad, is what separates the average inventor/scientist from the weird genius in this chapter.



# Thomas Edison

... WAS THE WORLD'S MOST PROLIFIC INVENTOR, AND AN AMERICAN FOLK HERO. BUT HE WAS ALSO A ROUGH, ECCENTRIC MAN WITH LITTLE FORMAL TRAINING, WHOSE BITE WAS AS BAD AS HIS BARK.



EDISON IS PROOF THAT, IN AMERICA, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.

BORN IN OHIO, HE WAS A YOUNG HUSTLER--SELLING NEWSPAPERS AND SNACKS ON THE RAILROADS AS A BOY...



... AND WORKING AS A TELEGRAPH OPERATOR BY THE AGE OF 16.



IN BOSTON, HE REINVENTED THE STOCK MARKET TICKER, AND EARNED \$40,000 DOING IT--A FORTUNE AT THE TIME.



GAD, EDISON! HOW CAN WE THANK YOU!

MAYBE A TICKER TAPE PARADE...

EDISON PUT HIS MONEY INTO A RESEARCH LAB AT MENLO PARK, NEW JERSEY. BY 1876, HE'D ACQUIRED SCORES OF PATENTS.

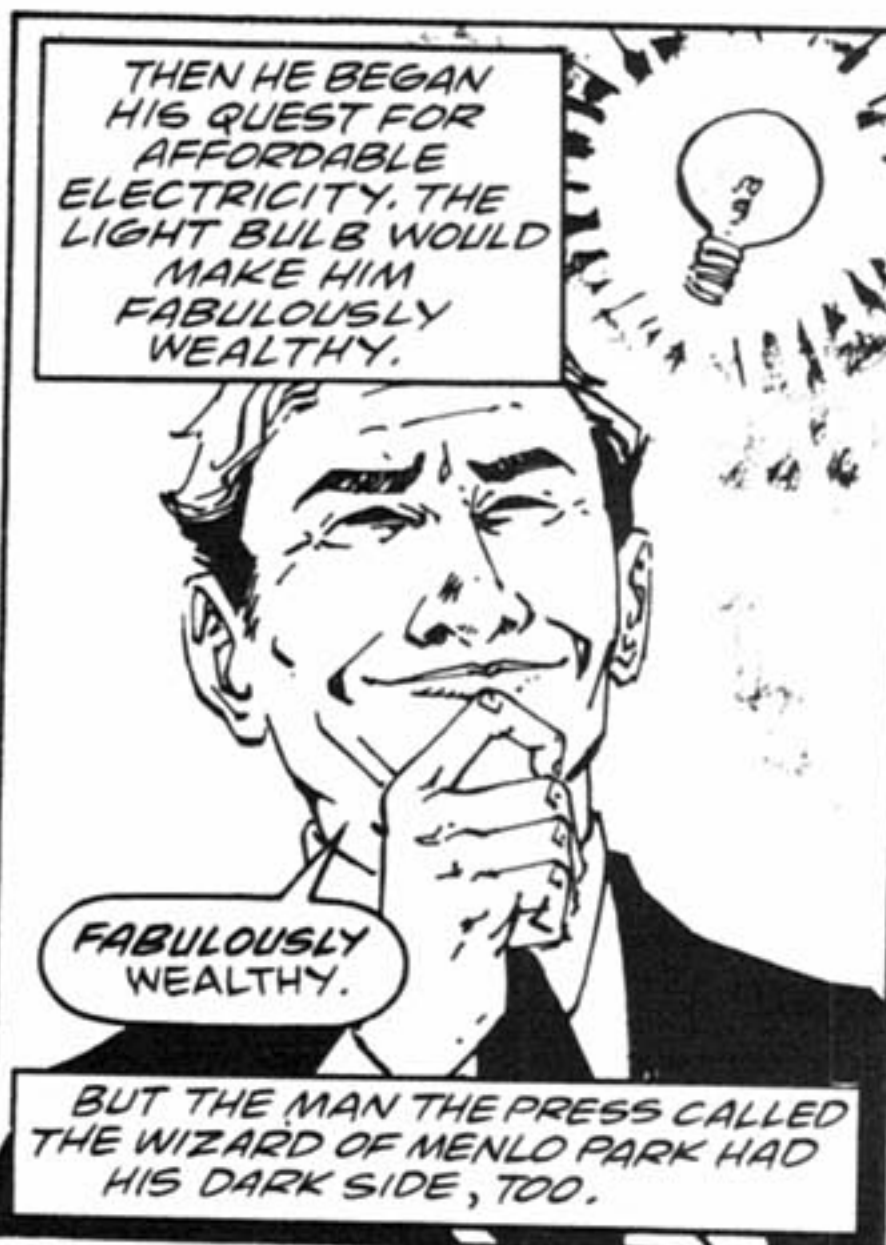


A YEAR LATER HE INVENTED THE PHONOGRAPH, AND BECAME WORLD FAMOUS.



THEY AIN'T HEARD NOTHIN' YET.

THEN HE BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY. THE LIGHT BULB WOULD MAKE HIM FABULOUSLY WEALTHY.



FABULOUSLY WEALTHY.

BUT THE MAN THE PRESS CALLED THE WIZARD OF MENLO PARK HAD HIS DARK SIDE, TOO.





BORN IN MILAN, OHIO IN 1847, EDISON WAS ONE OF 7 CHILDREN. HE TOLERATED ONLY ABOUT 3 MONTHS OF GRADE SCHOOL...

...BUT COMPENSATED BY READING VORACIOUSLY.



A SEVERE CASE OF SCARLET FEVER LEFT HIM WITH PROGRESSIVE DEAFNESS.

YOU'RE GOING TO GO DEAF!

WHAT?



BY AGE 12, HE COULD HEAR A SHOUT -- BUT THE REST WAS SILENCE.

THOMAS!

THOMAS!

WHAT?



AS TIME WENT BY, EDISON FOUND THAT HIS DEAFNESS ALLOWED HIM TO CONCENTRATE ON SOLVING SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS.



HE CANNOT POSSIBLY SUCCEED - HE HAS NO FORMAL TRAINING IN MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE!

YOU CAN SPEAK UP - THE OAF CAN'T HEAR YOU.



EDISON DIDN'T NEED FORMAL EDUCATION; HE DID JUST FINE WITHOUT IT.

PTUI!

TING

YEP, I GOT THE ANSWER... AND NOT WITH ANY OF THAT LONG-HAIRED THEORETICAL STUFF, NEITHER!



ONE OF THOSE LONG-HAIRS, NIKOLA TESLA, CLAIMED EDISON HAD CHEATED HIM.

BUT, MR. EDEESONE, YOU PROMEESE ME \$50,000...

OH, GET OUT OF HERE, TESLA.



EDISON'S STRATEGY HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH SCIENTIFIC THEORY.

FIND A NEED AND FILL IT!

BUT SOMETIMES HE FILLED A NEED WITH SOMEBODY ELSE'S INVENTION...

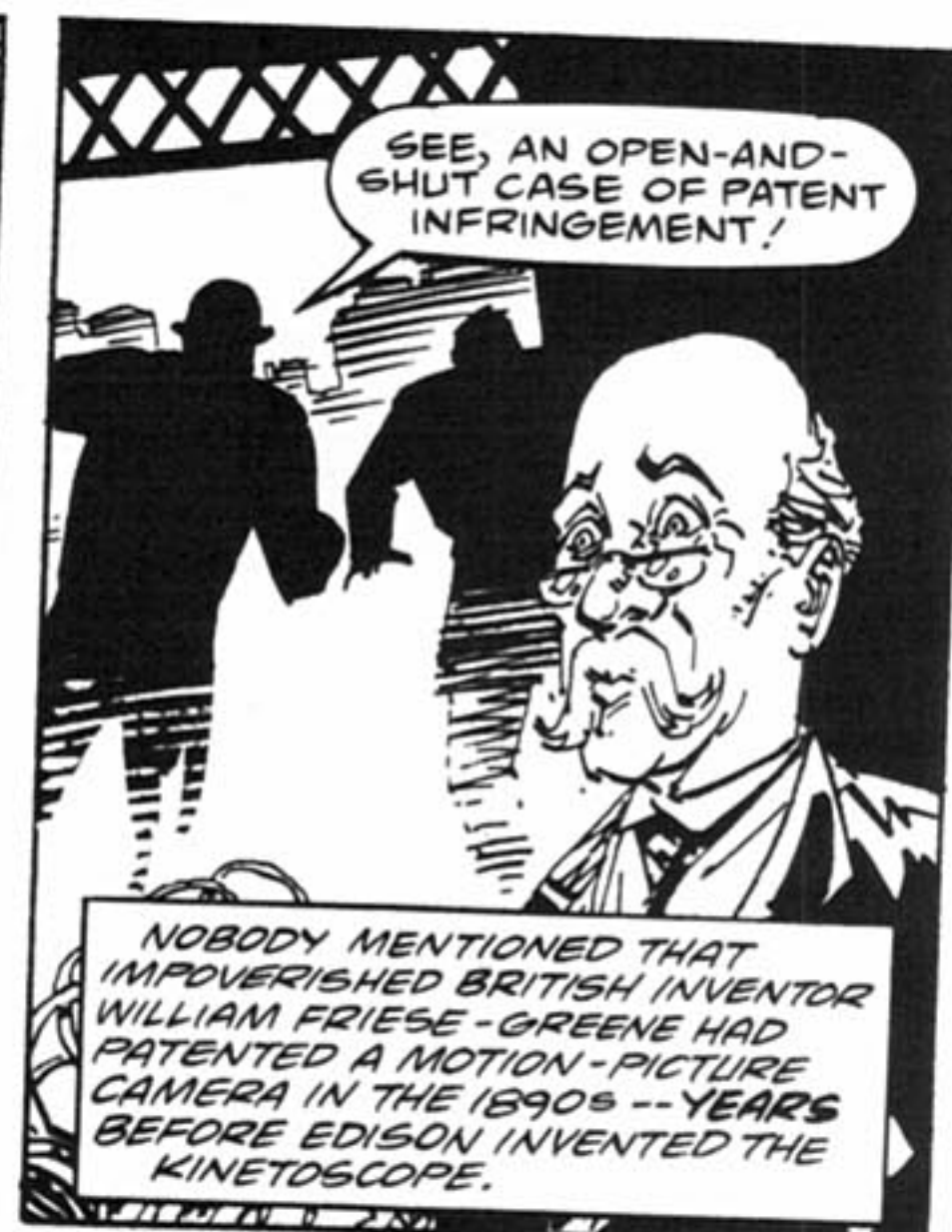


...THEN SURROUNDED IT WITH A HOST OF PATENTED IMPROVEMENTS.

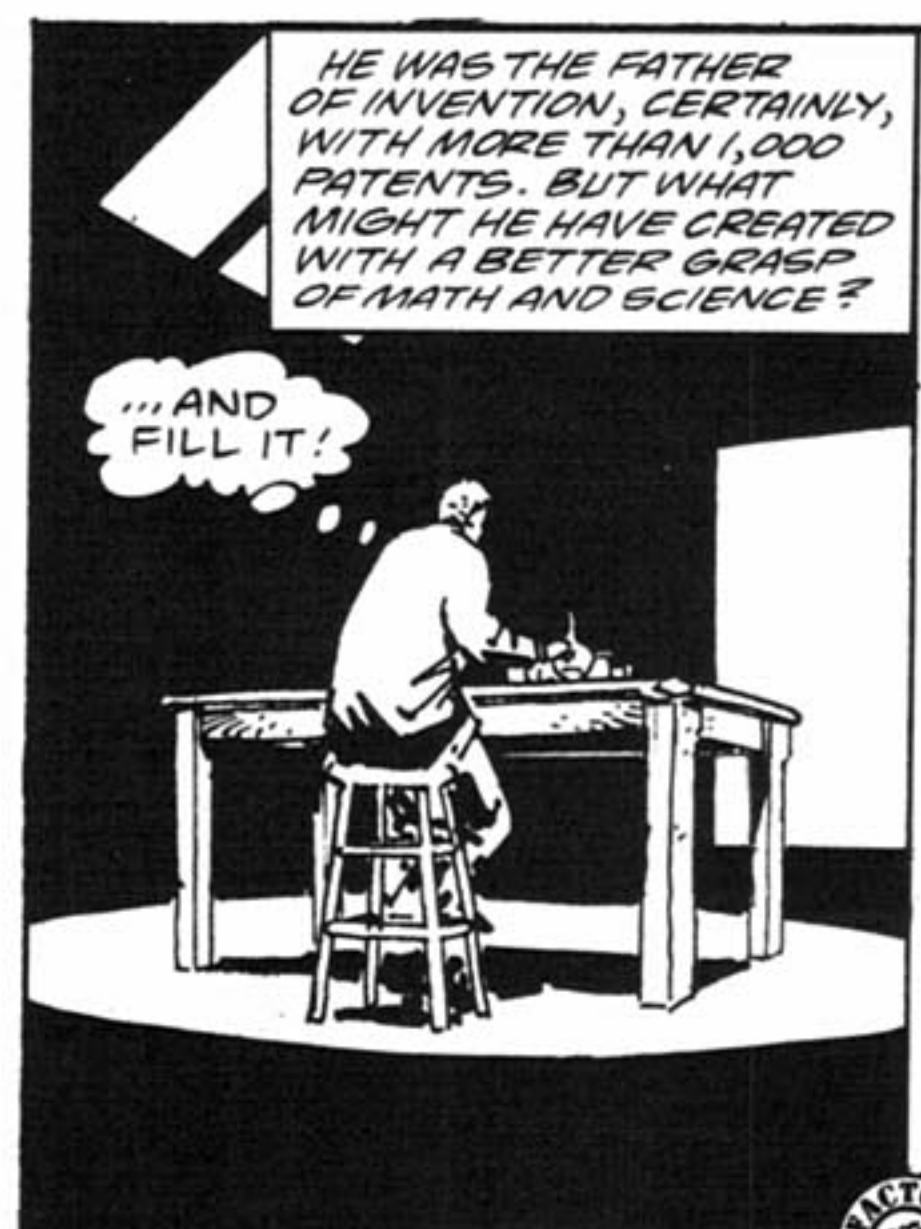
I AM DEMOC-RACY IN ACTION!

AS FOR PEOPLE STEALING HIS STUFF...











WHEN THE ELECTRONIC TWINS, ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM, RULED AS NATURE'S MOST INTERESTING MYSTERIES, ONLY ONE MAN REALLY SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THEM: THE ELECTRIFYING GENIUS NAMED: **NIKOLA TESLA!**



BORN IN 1856 IN SMILJAN IN WHAT WAS ONCE YUGOSLAVIA, THE SERBIAN SAVANT WAS THE SICKLY SON OF AN ORTHODOX PRIEST.



YOUNG NIKOLA SAW A LOT OF THINGS... FLASHES OF LIGHT...



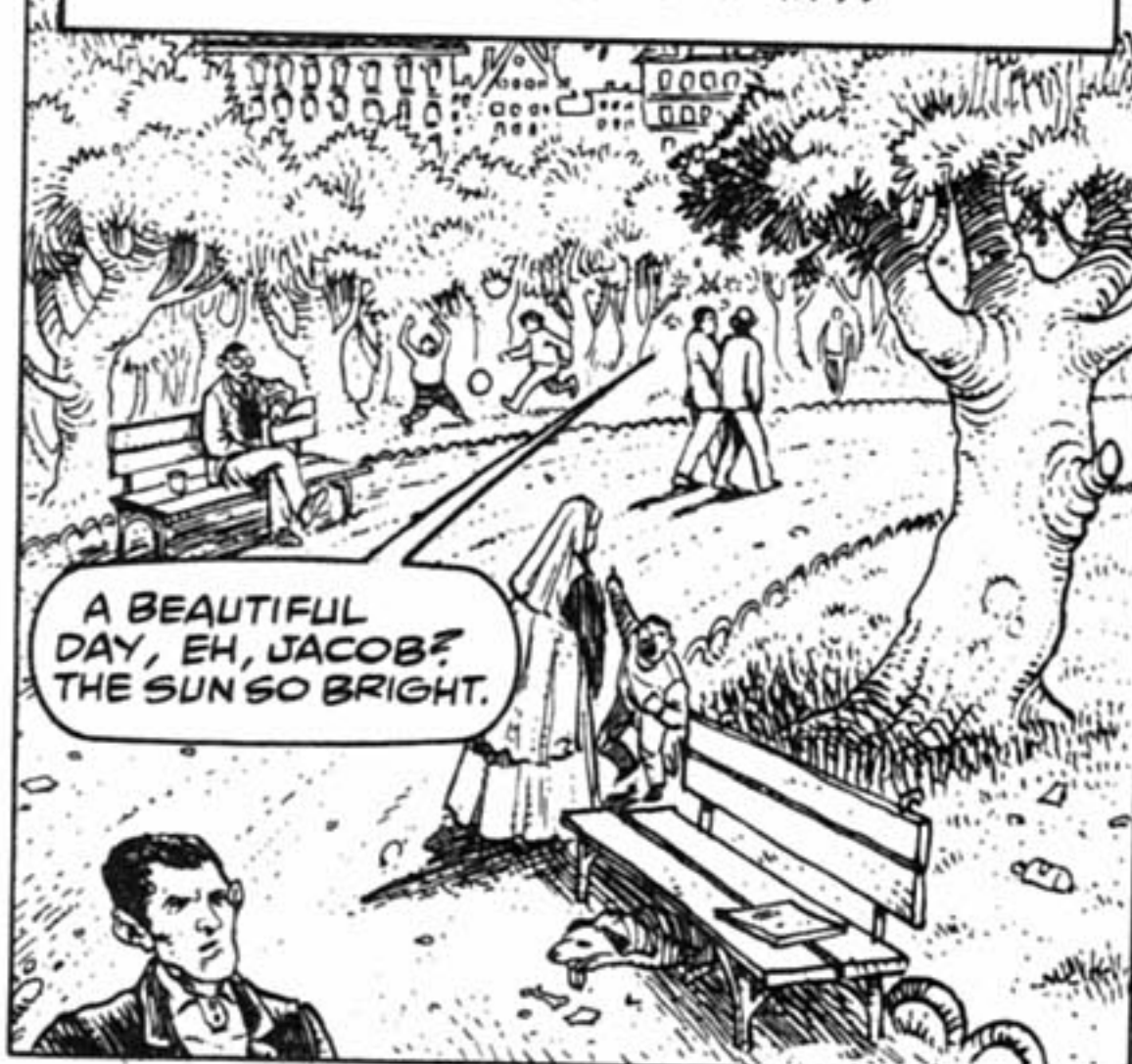
...AND INVENTIONS IN PRECISE DETAIL.



HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY STORED THESE MENTAL BLUEPRINTS.



TRAINED AS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, HE GOT A JOB WITH A HUNGARIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.



ONE DAY, WALKING IN A BUDAPEST PARK WITH A FRIEND...



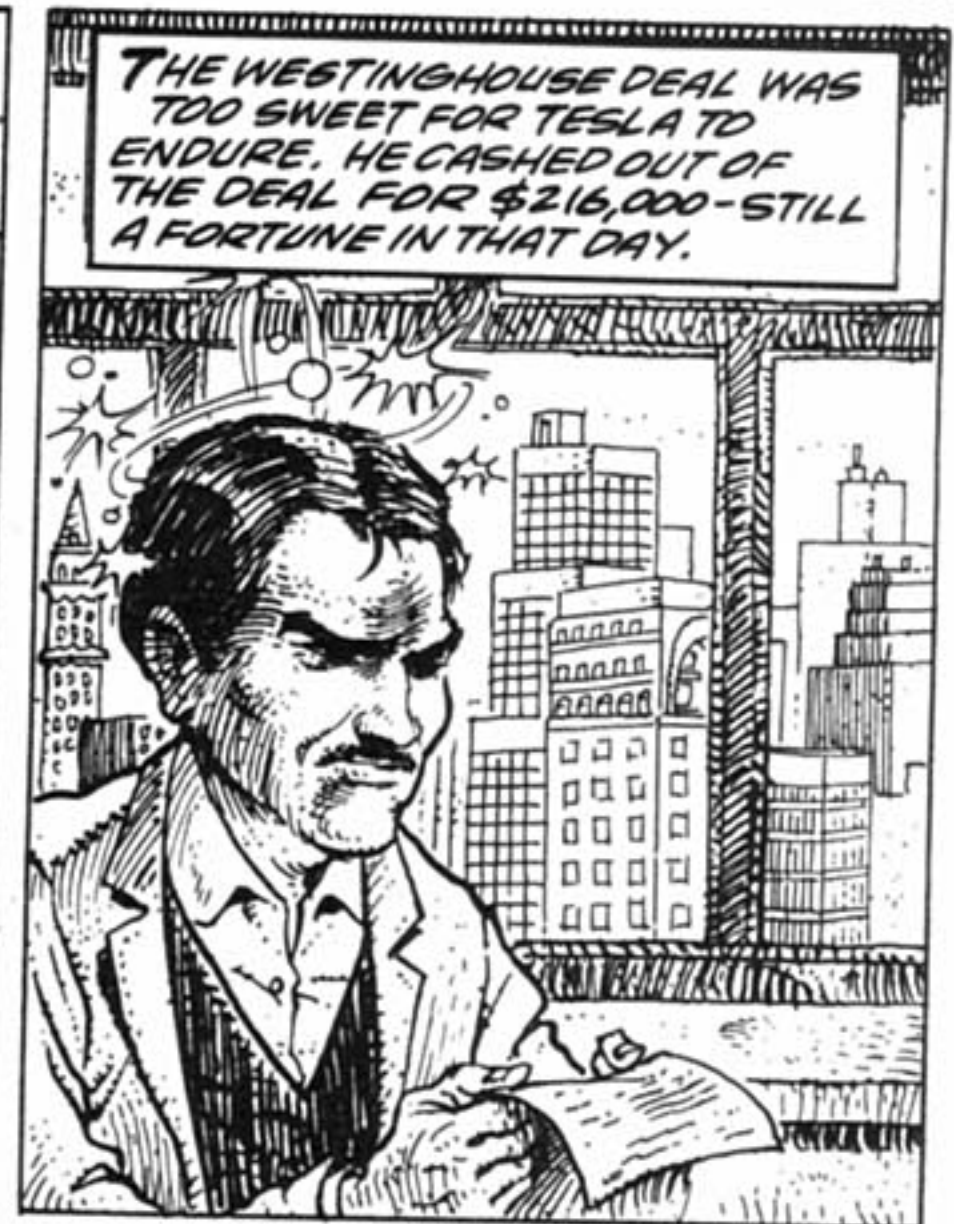
QUICK, JACOB... FETCH ME A STICK!













PREFERRING NUMBERS DIVISIBLE BY 3, TESLA POLISHED EACH MEAL'S SILVERWARE WITH 18 FRESH NAPKINS... AND CALCULATED THE EXACT AMOUNT OF EACH MORSEL OF FOOD BEFORE EATING IT.



BUT HE REMAINED A MASTER SHOWMAN. HIS NEW YORK LAB WAS A SCIENTIFIC CIRCUS.



DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.

ONE OF HIS INVENTIONS, THE TESLA COIL, IS STILL USED IN MODERN ELECTRONICS.



IN 1898 HE DEMONSTRATED HIS "TELEAUTOMATIC" ROBOT BOAT IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.



IN THE FUTURE, ROBOTS WILL DO ALL THE WORK FOR US.

IN HIS COLORADO SPRINGS LAB, TESLA PLAYED WITH HEAVENLY FIRE, CREATING GENERATORS THAT WOULD TRANSMIT ELECTRICITY ACROSS SPACE.



WITH POWER LIKE THIS, WHO NEEDS WIRES?

SOME SAID TESLA HAD INVENTED A DEATH RAY THAT COULD SHOOT DOWN BOMBERS HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY.



HE TALKED ABOUT COSMIC RAYS BEFORE ANYONE KNEW THEY EXISTED.



AH. A NEW IDEA FOR AN INVENTION COMES TO ME. PERHAPS I SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP IT...

HOW DID HE KNOW SO MUCH? SIMPLE, TO SOME WHO SAID HE WAS FROM VENUS.



--OR PERHAPS I'LL JUST PHONE HOME FOR THE SOLUTION.







# HENRY FORD

...THE PIONEER AUTOMAKER, CHANGED THE 20TH CENTURY BY BUILDING THE FIRST AFFORDABLE, GASOLINE-POWERED CAR--HIS VENERABLE, ETERNAL MODEL T.



HE ALSO CHANGED HIS IMAGE, FROM HAYSEED TO GIANT-KILLER --AND BACK AGAIN.



WHEN HE WON THE BATTLE TO BUILD CARS AGAINST COMPETITORS WHO HELD CRUCIAL PATENT RIGHTS, HE LOOKED LIKE A CHAMPION FOR THE COMMON MAN.

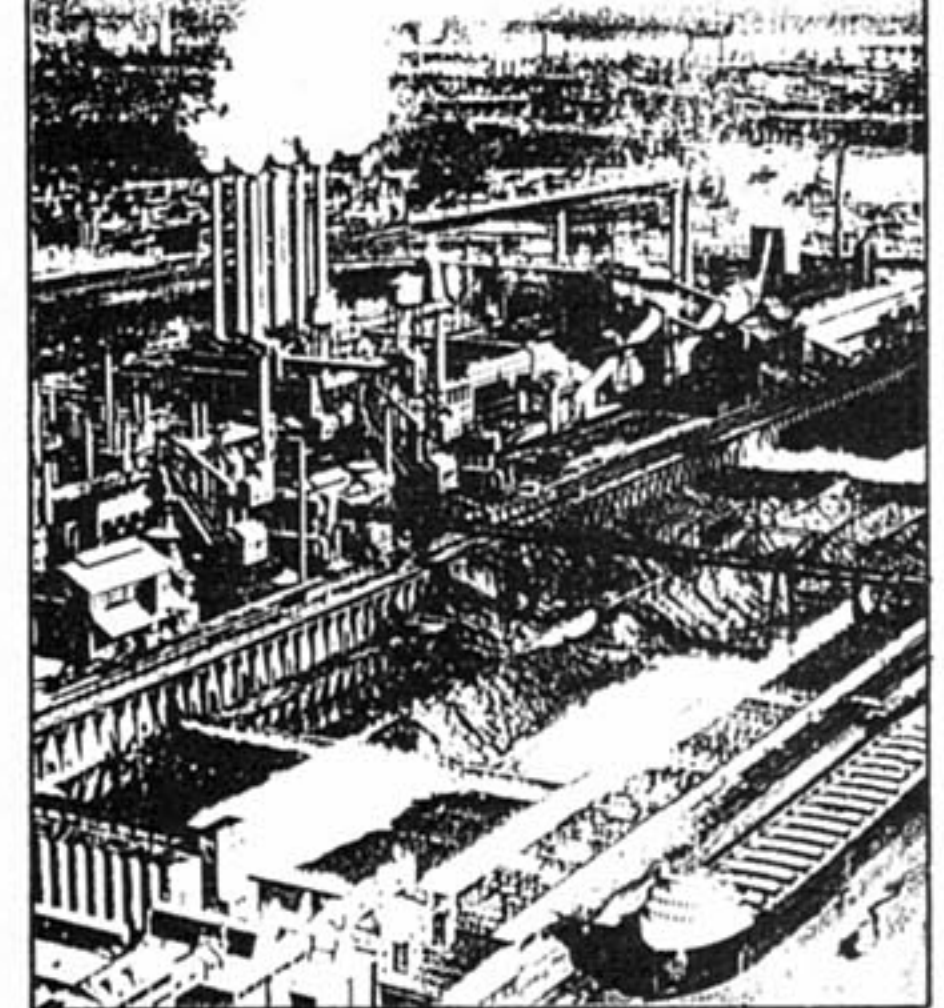
YOU CAN'T STOP FREE ENTERPRISE.



TRIMMING SHIFTS TO 8 HOURS AND PAYING \$5 A DAY--TWICE THE GOING RATE--FORD LOOKED LIKE ONE OF LABOR'S FOLK HEROES.



WHEN HE BUILT THE BIG ROUGE RIVER PLANT IN 1927, HE SEEMED LIKE A PROPHET OF INDUSTRY.



ROUGE RIVER WAS THE HUB OF A VAST WEB OF SUPPLIERS OF WOOD, CLOTH, LEATHER, IRON ORE, RUBBER--ALL THE STUFF THAT WENT INTO BUILDING A CAR.



AT ROUGE RIVER, RAW IRON ORE ARRIVING ON A BARGE WOULD BECOME PART OF A MODEL T JUST 28 HOURS LATER.

THAT'S RIGHT, EDSSEL MY SON. JUST 28 HOURS. HOW ABOUT THAT?



RIGHT ABOUT CARS, FORD BEGAN TO THINK HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE, TOO.











HE HATED UNIONS SO MUCH...



...THAT HE THREATENED TO CLOSE HIS DOORS IN 1941, WHEN THEY WERE VOTED IN.

I WON'T HAVE IT, CLOSE THE PLANT.

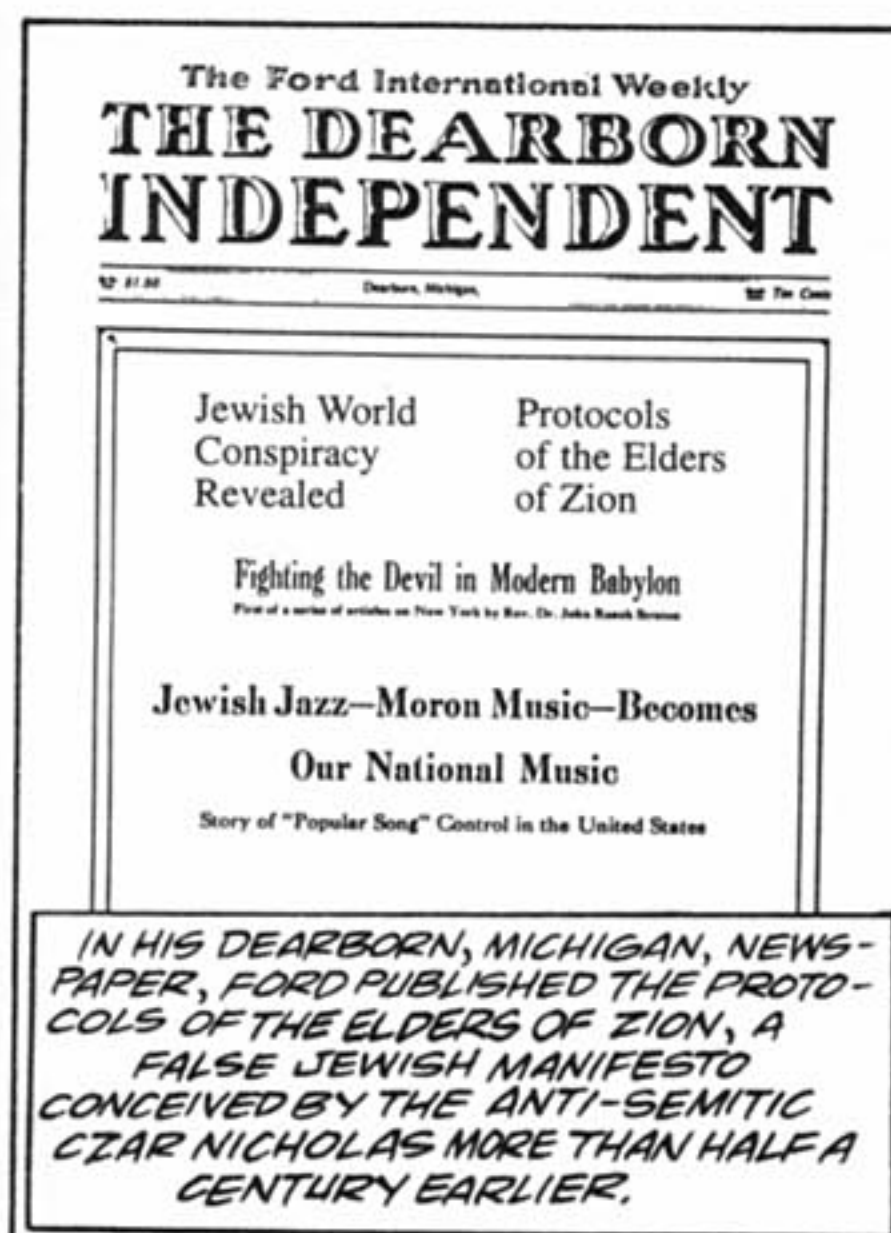
COOLER HEADS PREVAILED.



BUT MOST OF ALL, HE HATED JEWS.



LIKE HITLER, HE BELIEVED THE WORLD'S ILLS STEMMED FROM A CONSPIRACY OF "INTERNATIONAL JEWS."



The Ford International Weekly  
**THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT**

12 11 36

Dearborn, Michigan

12 The One

Jewish World  
Conspiracy  
Revealed

Protocols  
of the Elders  
of Zion

Fighting the Devil in Modern Babylon  
First of a series of articles on New York by Rev. Dr. John R. Smith

Jewish Jazz—Moron Music—Becomes  
Our National Music

Story of "Popular Song" Control in the United States

IN HIS DEARBORN, MICHIGAN, NEWSPAPER, FORD PUBLISHED THE PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION, A FALSE JEWISH MANIFESTO CONCEIVED BY THE ANTI-SEMITIC CZAR NICHOLAS MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY EARLIER.



THE OUTCRY WAS SO DEVASTATING THAT FORD HAD TO APOLOGIZE. HE SOLD HIS NEWSPAPER.

I'M SORRY THERE WAS A JEWISH CONSPIRACY. UH, WHAT I MEANT WAS...



IN 1943 HIS ONLY SON, EDSSEL, DIED, AND FORD RETURNED TO HIS COMPANY'S HELM FOR A TIME.



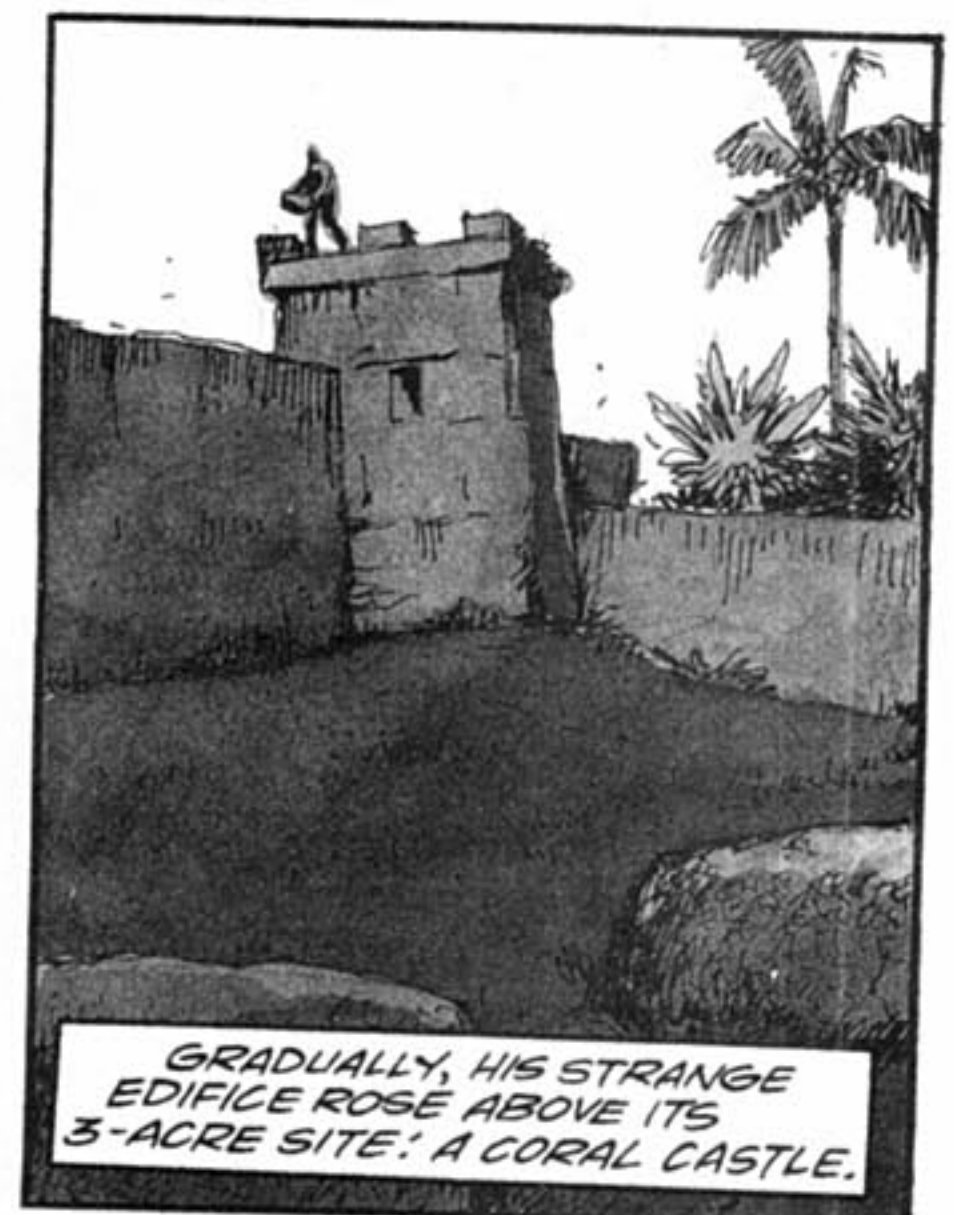
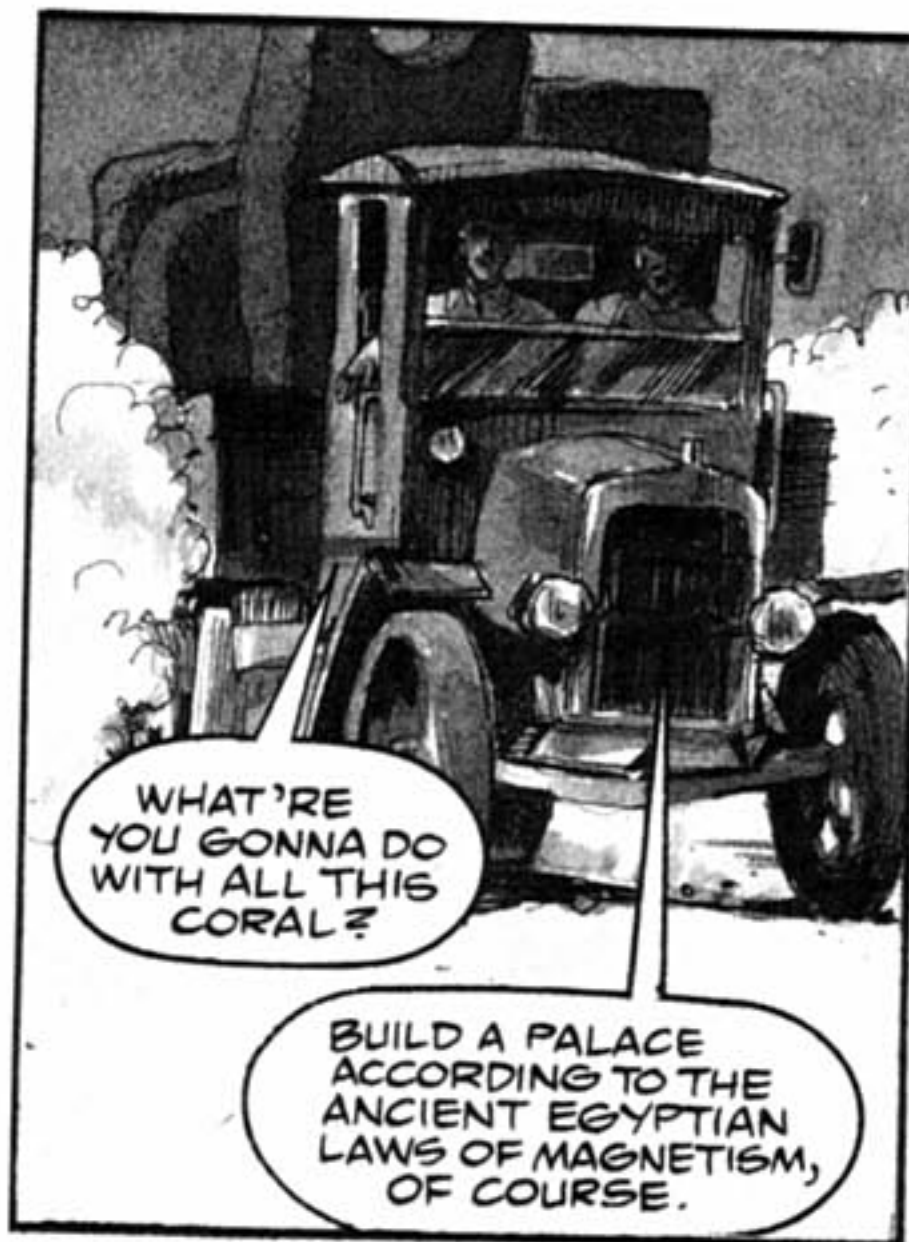
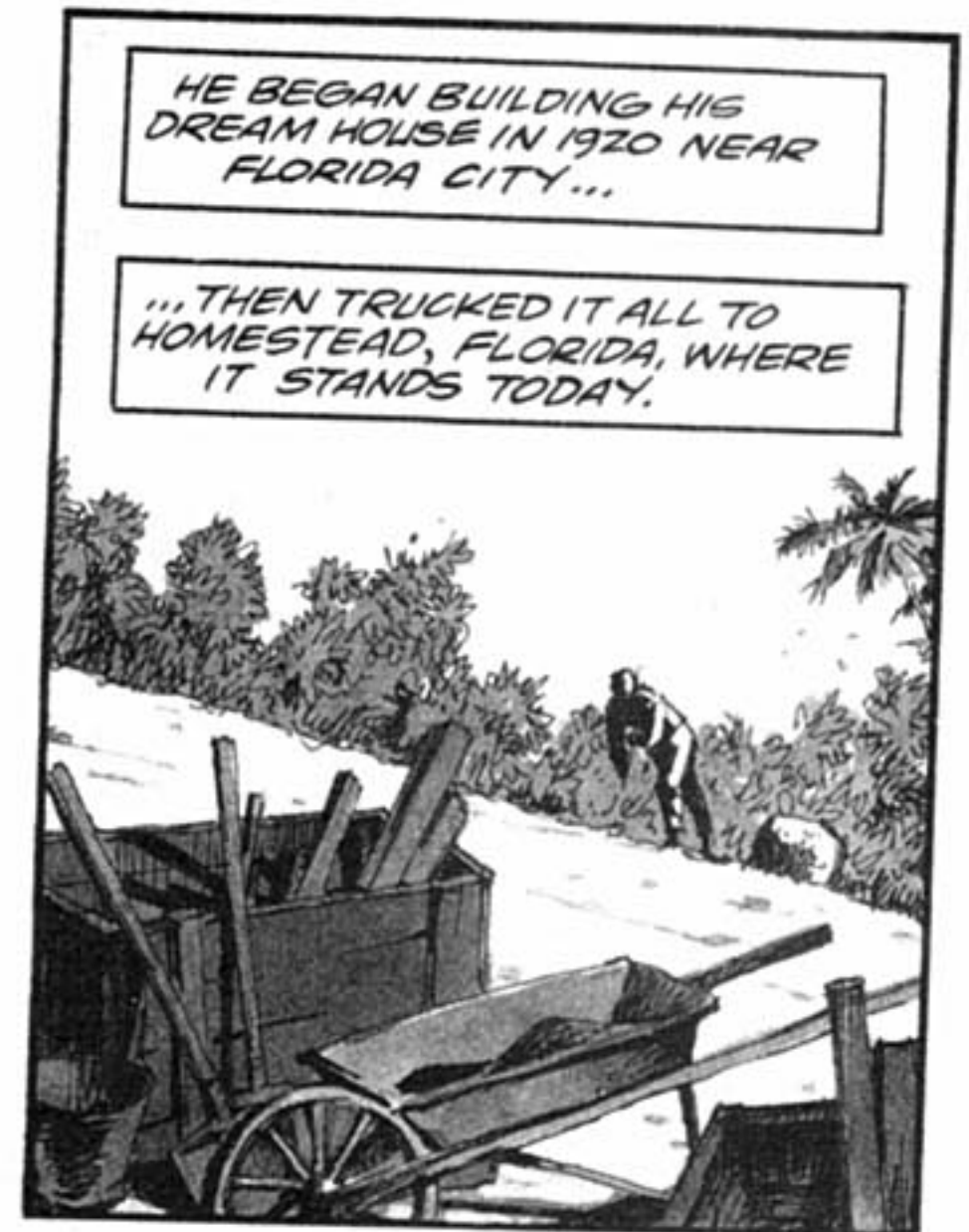
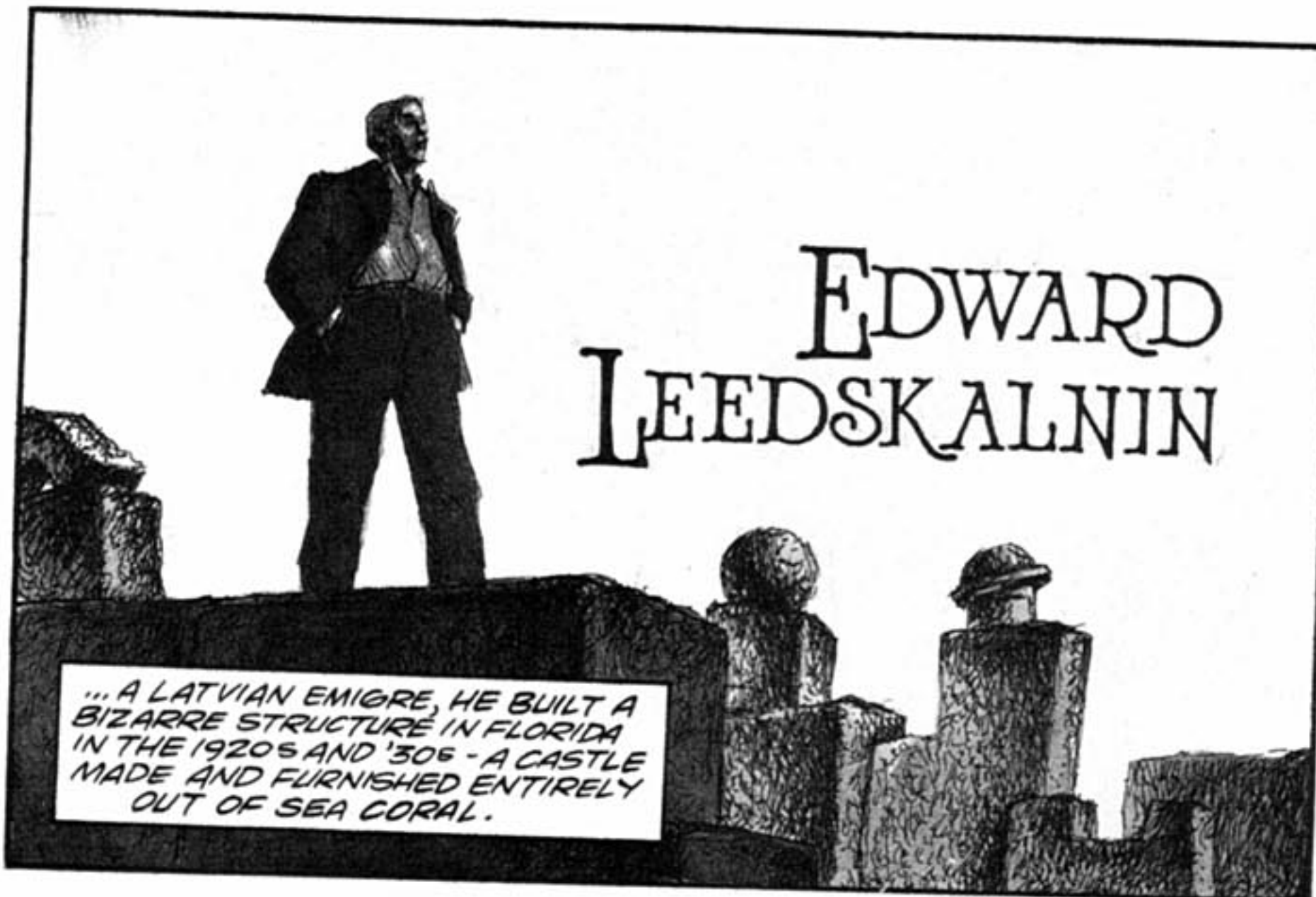
WHEN HE DIED AT HOME IN 1947, AGED 84, HE HAD AN AXE NEARBY.



FORD HAD ALWAYS CARRIED THE AXE WHEN HE WALKED AROUND HIS ESTATE. FOREVER LOCKED OUT OF THE WORLD HE'D HELPED CREATE...

...HE HAD A PHOBIA ABOUT BEING LOCKED OUT OF HIS OWN HOUSE.





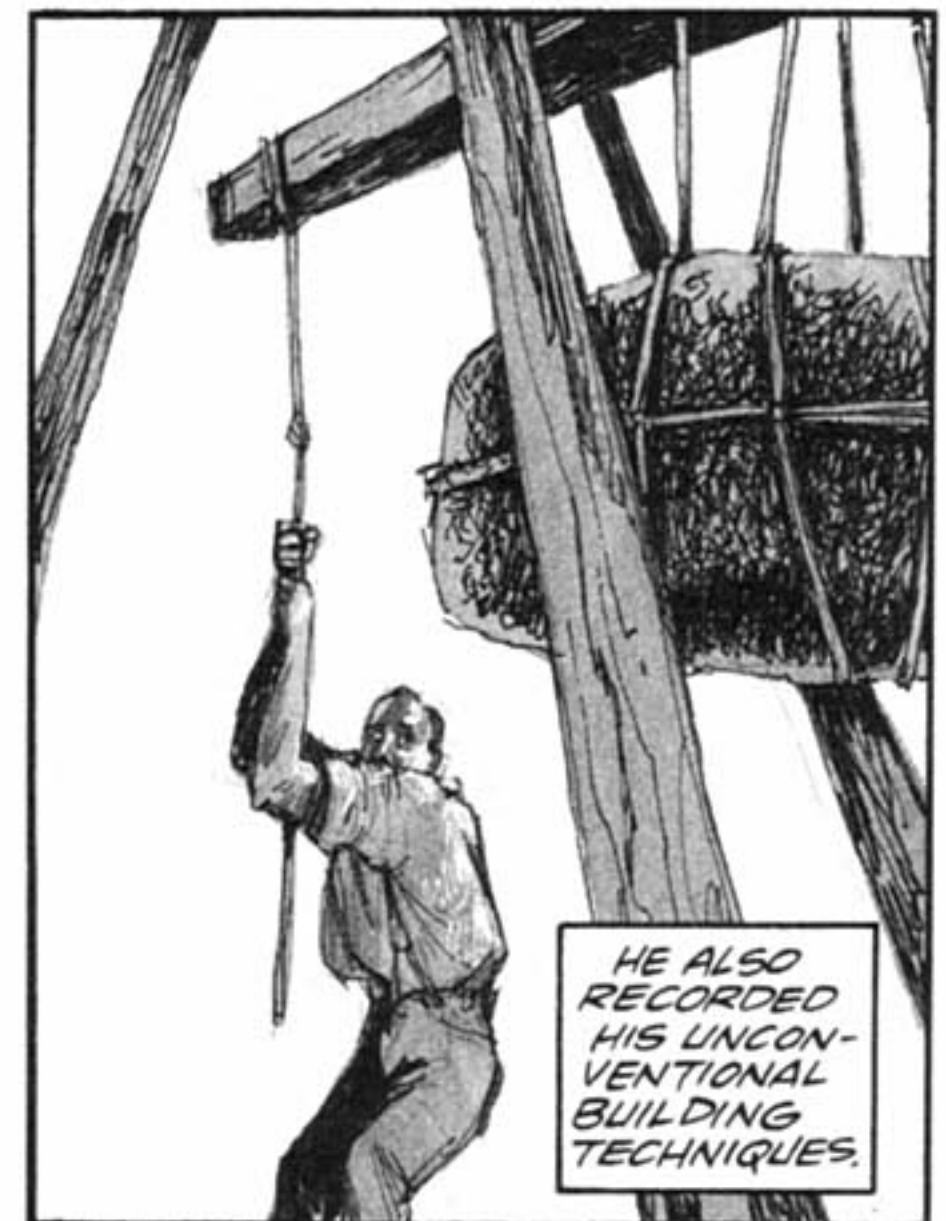




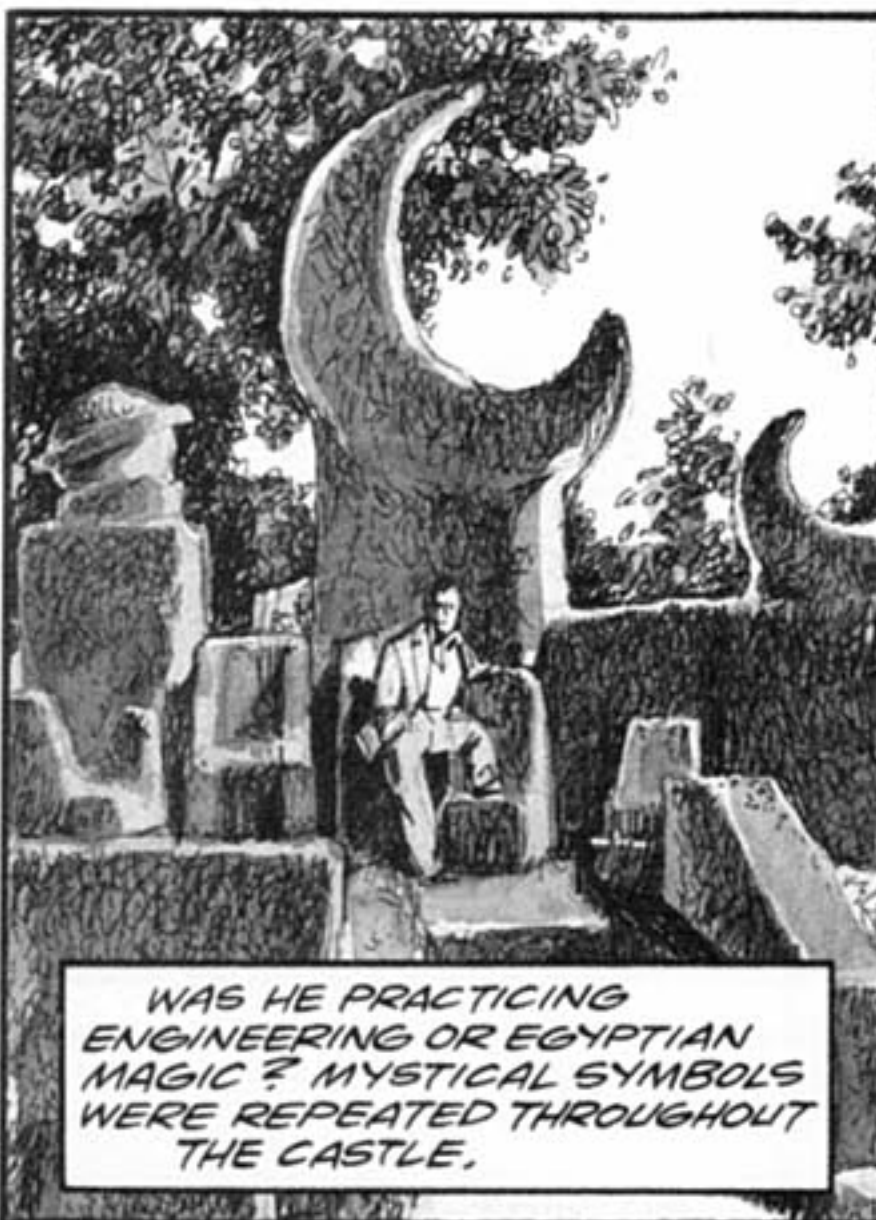
THE SELF-TAUGHT ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER LIVED AND STUDIED IN A ROUGH SHACK HE BUILT ON THE GROUNDS.



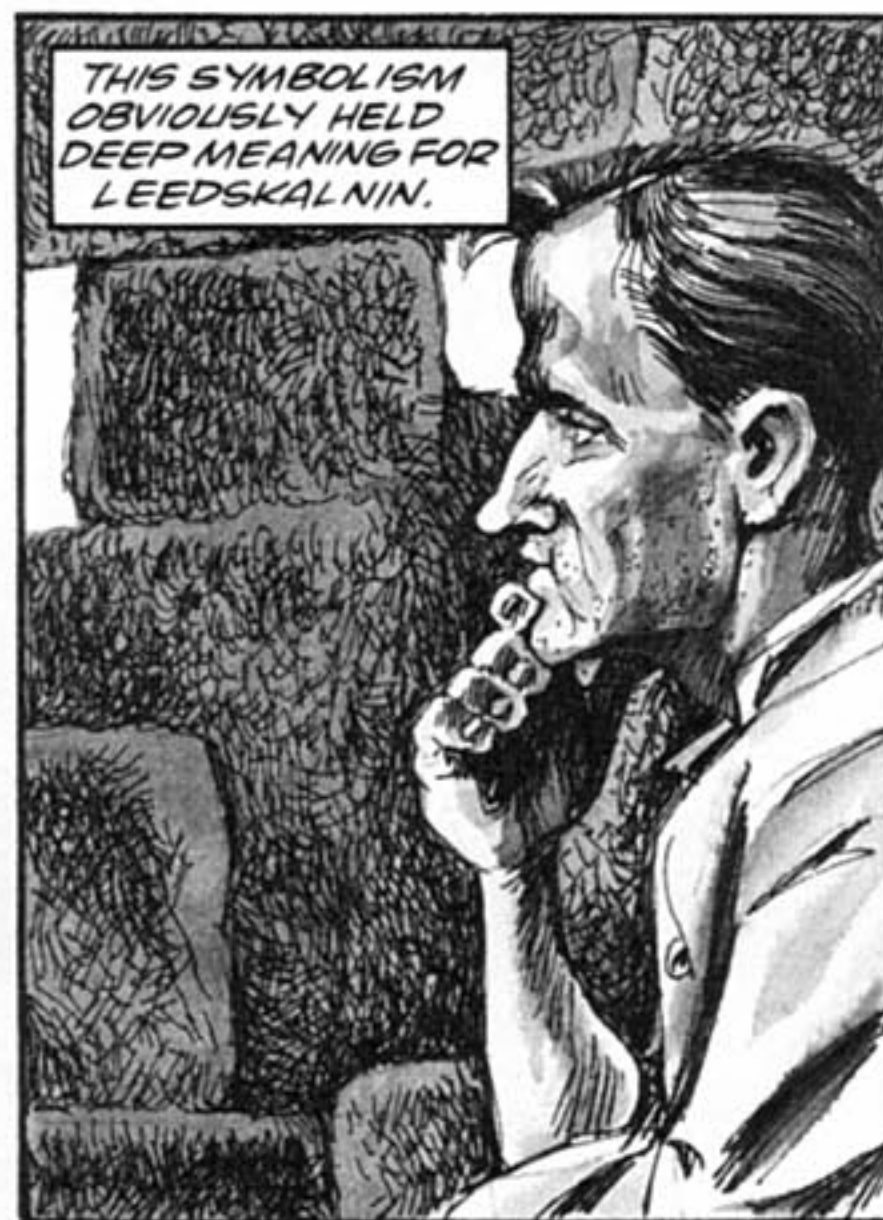
HE EXPERIMENTED WITH MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY, KEEPING HIS NOTES IN A CRYPTIC JOURNAL.



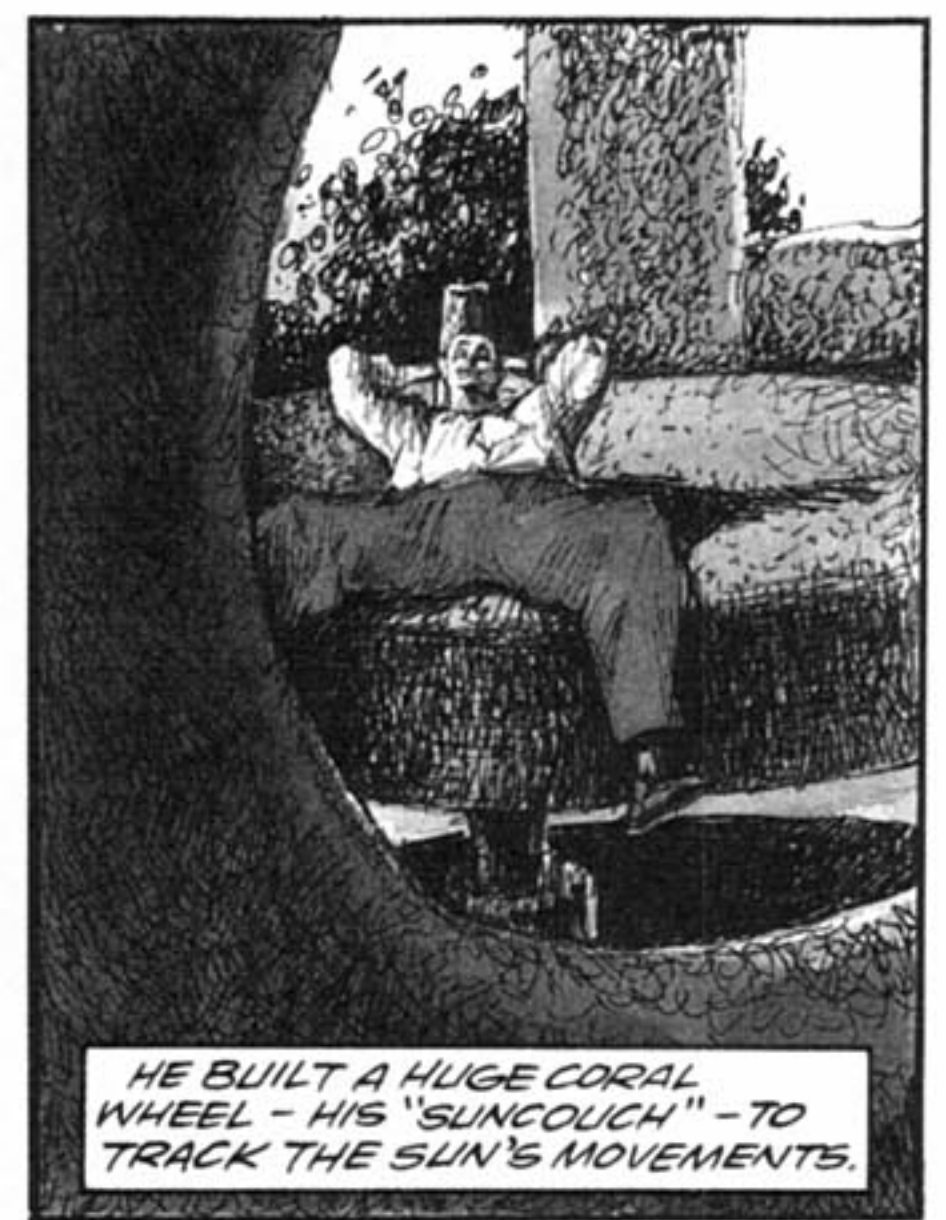
HE ALSO RECORDED HIS UNCONVENTIONAL BUILDING TECHNIQUES.



WAS HE PRACTICING ENGINEERING OR EGYPTIAN MAGIC? MYSTICAL SYMBOLS WERE REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE CASTLE.



THIS SYMBOLISM OBVIOUSLY HELD DEEP MEANING FOR LEEDSKALNIN.



HE BUILT A HUGE CORAL WHEEL - HIS "SUNCOUCH" - TO TRACK THE SUN'S MOVEMENTS.



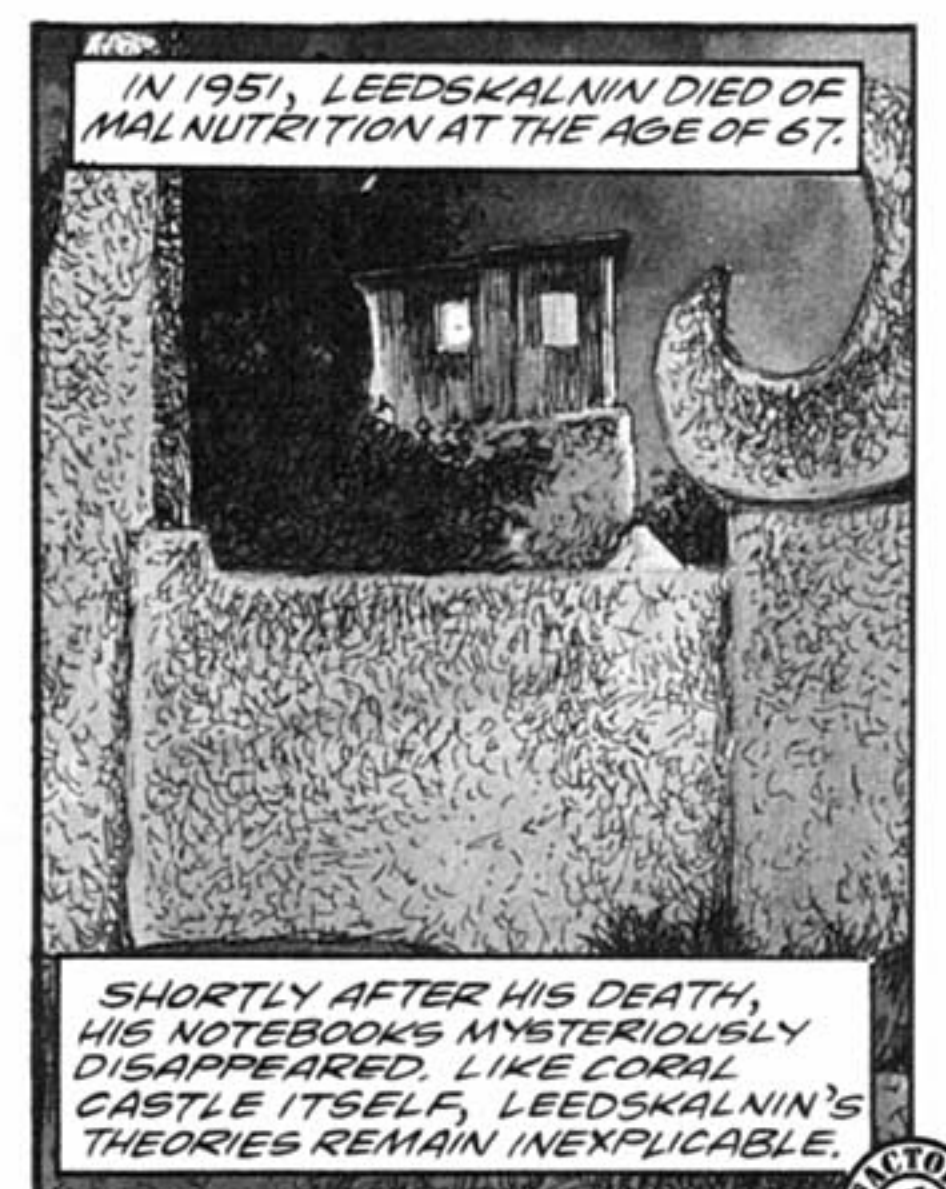
WITH ITS GIANT THRONES, 8-FOOT-LONG CORAL BEDS, AND A CONFERENCE TABLE CUT IN THE SHAPE OF FLORIDA, THE CASTLE BECAME A TOURIST ATTRACTION.

I AM DELIGHTED TO SHOW VISITORS MY WORK... DELIGHTED...



FOR DECADES, LEEDSKALNIN CONTINUED RECORDING HIS SECRET STUDIES OF MAGNETISM AND MONUMENT CONSTRUCTION

SOMEDAY, MY DISCOVERIES WILL CHANGE THE WORLD!



IN 1951, LEEDSKALNIN DIED OF MAL NUTRITION AT THE AGE OF 67.

SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEATH, HIS NOTEBOOKS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED. LIKE CORAL CASTLE ITSELF, LEEDSKALNIN'S THEORIES REMAIN INEXPLICABLE.





DURING THE FORTIES AND FIFTIES AN AMERICAN NEUROLOGIST LED THE WAY IN USING SURGERY TO CURE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. BY SEVERING A NERVE OR TWO IN THE FRONTAL LOBES OF THE BRAIN, HE PERFORMED THE INFAMOUS FRONTAL LOBOTOMY. HIS NAME...?

**WALTER  
FREEMAN**



THOSE OLD MENTAL DEVILS...



... COULD JUST BE SCRAPED AWAY.



FREEMAN DIDN'T INVENT THE LOBOTOMY. THAT HONOR GOES TO THE PORTUGUESE NEUROLOGIST DR. ANTONIO DE EGAS MONIZ, WHO GOT THE IDEA IN 1935.



HE FOUND THAT, WITH A ROTATING DEVICE RESEMBLING AN APPLE CORER,...



... HE COULD EXTRACT THE STUFF OF DELUSION... DEPRESSION... PSYCHOSIS.



OF TWENTY EXPERIMENTAL PATIENTS, HE CLAIMED SEVEN WERE CURED, SEVEN WERE HELPED, AND SIX STAYED THE SAME.

HE'S GOT IT! MONIZ HAS REALLY GOT IT!



FREEMAN CALLED IT A MIRACLE TREATMENT-- AND TOOK THE LOBOTOMY A STEP FURTHER:

HE REPLACED THE "CORER" WITH WHAT HIS COLLEAGUES CALLED HIS "GOLD-PLATED ICEPICK"-- A LONG, THIN, POINTED BRAIN-SCRAPER, CARRIED IN ITS OWN VELVET CASE.





ADMINISTERING A LOCAL ANESTHETIC, FREEMAN STUCK HIS ICE PICK...



... THROUGH AN EYE-SOCKET...



... AND INTO THE BRAIN, WHERE HE BLINDLY SCRAPED AWAY.



EACH LOBOTOMY COST ABOUT \$1,000-- ALTHOUGH FREEMAN SOMETIMES DID ASSEMBLY-LINE LOBOTOMIES--



--FOR \$25 BUCKS A HEAD!

FREEMAN PERFORMED AT LEAST 3,500 LOBOTOMIES. HIS AMERICAN COLLEAGUES, USING VARIOUS CUTTING TECHNIQUES, DID SOME 40,000 MORE. THOUSANDS MORE WERE DONE ABROAD...



... IT WAS THE TREATMENT OF CHOICE!

TROUBLE WAS, LOBOTOMIES LEFT MANY PATIENTS WORSE OFF THAN BEFORE!



DEEP APATHY AND MENTAL IMPAIRMENT OFTEN FOLLOWED A LOBOTOMY.



PSYCHOSURGERY FELL FROM FAVOR IN THE LATE 1950S.

AS FOR THE FATHER OF THE LOBOTOMY-- TWO GOOD THINGS HAPPENED. IN 1949, ANTONIO DE EGAS MONIZ RECEIVED THE NOBEL PRIZE...

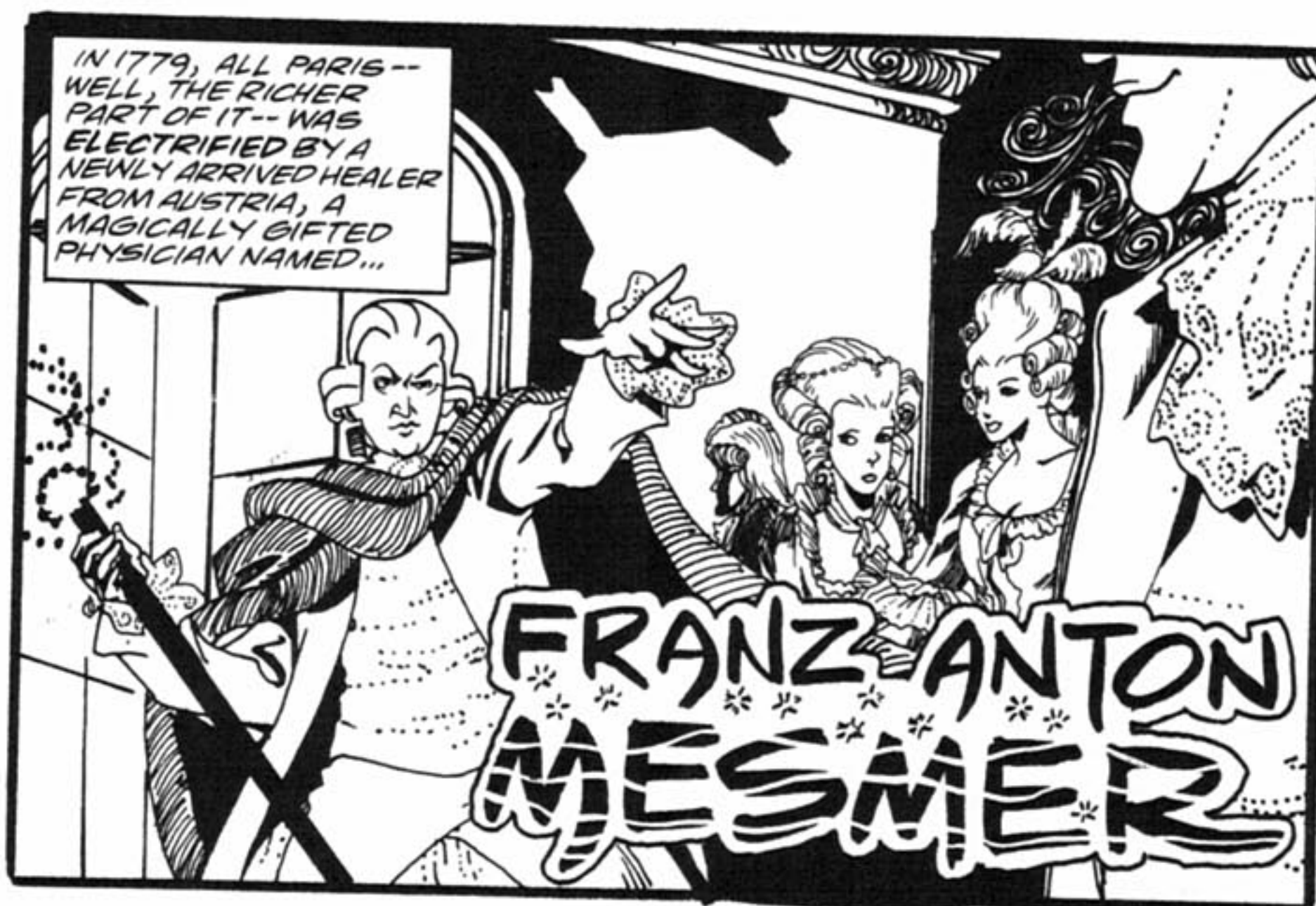


... AND IN 1955 HE WAS BEATEN TO DEATH IN HIS OFFICE BY A DERANGED PATIENT!



OH, WELL... CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL!















# LORD MONBODDO

...AKA JAMES BURNETT, WAS ONE OF 18TH-CENTURY SCOTLAND'S DISTINGUISHED JUDGES, AMATEUR ANTHROPOLOGISTS, AND CLASSICAL SCHOLARS, A STAR IN EDINBURGH (THE SO-CALLED ATHENS OF THE NORTH).



MONBODDO WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO FIND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FACT THAT HUMANS LOOK SOMETHING LIKE APES.



HE'D SEEN TWO ORANGUTANS IN LONDON, AND HAD ONCE GONE TO PARIS TO SEE A STUFFED CHIMP.



BUT... IT'S SO OBVIOUS!

THERE WERE ALSO STORIES OF APES USING TOOLS...



...AND OF ORANGUTANS LUSTING AFTER HUMAN FEMALES.



OOGA! OOGA!

THESE POOR DEVILS ARE SIMPLY TRAPPED FURTHER DOWN THE GREAT CHAIN OF BEING.



THE "GREAT CHAIN OF BEING" WAS A HIERARCHY OF PERFECTION. PROTOZOA WERE THE BOTTOM, HUMANS THE TOP.

THE TROUBLE, MONBODDO DECIDED, WAS THAT RANK ON THE GREAT CHAIN WAS DETERMINED BY LANGUAGE--AND THE APES HAD NONE.



THEY'RE EQUIPPED TO SPEAK-- BUT THEIR SIMPLE LIFE DOES NOT REQUIRE IT.



ORANGUTAN?

IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT EVOLUTION MUST TAKE US TOWARD EVER GREATER MENTAL PERFECTION.









TO THE OJIBWA, HIS ADOPTIVE TRIBE, HE WAS "WA-SHA-QUON-ASIA"--HE WHO FLIES BY NIGHT.

BUT A DOTING WORLD CAME TO KNOW HIM AS THE GREAT NATIVE-AMERICAN NATURALIST CALLED...

## GREY OWL



RUMORED TO BE THE BLUE-EYED SON OF A SCOTTISH FATHER AND APACHE MOM, GREY OWL FIRST APPEARED IN THE NORTH WOODS IN 1906, AGED 18.



HE EARNED A LIVING AS A HUNTER AND TRAPPER, TAKING TO IT LIKE A BORN WOODSMAN.

A CLEAN KILL!



HE LIVED FOR YEARS WITH HIS OJIBWA WIFE, ANGELE, UNTIL:

THEY SAY WE'RE AT WAR WITH GERMANY!



THE NEWS WAS ALL THE EXCUSE HIS RESTLESS SPIRIT NEEDED. SOON HE WENT FROM HUNTING GROUND TO BATTLEGROUND.



HE BECAME A HUNTER OF MEN: A SNIPER.



A DIRTY KIND OF JOB.



THE EXPERIENCE OF WAR SICKENED GREY OWL AND, DISENCHANTED WITH THE MODERN WORLD, HE RETURNED HOME.

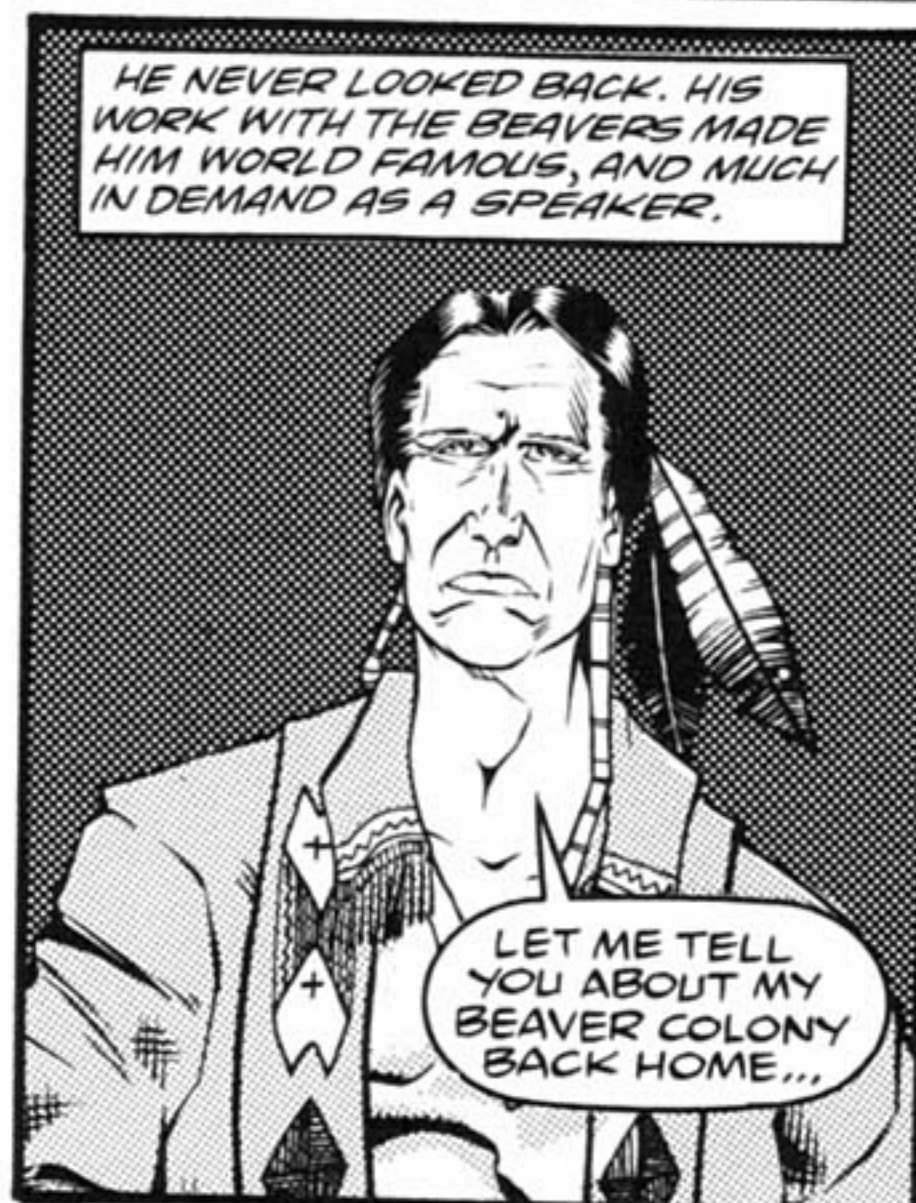
AT LEAST HERE I KILL TO EAT!

BUT HIS ISOLATED HAPPINESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. WITH HIS SECOND WIFE, THE IROQUOIS WOMAN ANAHAREO, GREY OWL FLED THE ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION.



WHILE HE HAD ABANDONED CIVILIZATION, CIVILIZATION--IN THE FORM OF THE MINING AND TIMBER INDUSTRIES--WAS SLOWLY DESTROYING HIS NATURAL PARADISE.







# CHAPTER EIGHT

## DOUGH - NUTS

### TYCOONS AND MILLIONAIRES

The old adage says that money is the root of all evil. And perhaps, in rational hands, that's true. But money in the hands of a true weirdo is another thing entirely. There, cash is simply the means to an end... and the end is invariably strange. Take Stephen Tennant (*page 168*) who used his fortune to spend decades literally lying in the lap of luxury. Or newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst (*page 178*), an unbridled consumerist who filled his palatial estate with more treasure and art than any museum. Or Sarah Winchester (*page 176*), who spent millions building room after room onto her home to try to avoid the assault of angry spirits. Or the king of moneyed crackpots, Howard Hughes (*page 184*), who spent millions developing a plane that never flew. What's obvious from these weirdos' stories is that money couldn't buy them happiness; but it should also be noted that an excess of cash certainly made their misery more tolerable.



# MAD JACK MYTTON!

SQUIRE MYTTON, LORD OF HALSTON MANOR IN SHROPSHIRE, WAS 18TH-CENTURY ENGLAND'S HARDEST-RIDING, HARDEST-DRINKING--AND HARDEST-HEADED--WASTREL, HEIR TO A VAST FORTUNE, BUT TOO OPEN-HANDED, AND PERHAPS TOO FOOLISH, TO KEEP IT.



HE WAS KNOWN AS MAD JACK.

HIS EXCESSES WERE LEGEND-- 8 BOTTLES OF PORT WINE A DAY, PUNCTUATED WITH LIBERAL DOSES OF BRANDY... GALLONS OF BRANDY.



IT IS SAID THAT HE HAD 3000 SHIRTS AND 1000 HATS.



HE GAMBLLED LIKE HE DRANK-- WITH WILD ABANDON, AND BADLY.

...AND I RAISE YOU A THOUSAND GUINEAS, SIR.



HE LIKED A PRANK NOW AND THEN...



EASY DOES IT, NOW, NELL, MY GIRL, EASY DOES IT.

...EVEN WHEN IT BACKFIRED.

GOOD GOD, NELL!



OUCH!

OUCH!

HE LOVED ALL LIVING THINGS, ESPECIALLY HIS ANIMALS-- HIS BEAR, HIS DOZENS OF CATS, HIS HUNDREDS OF DOGS.

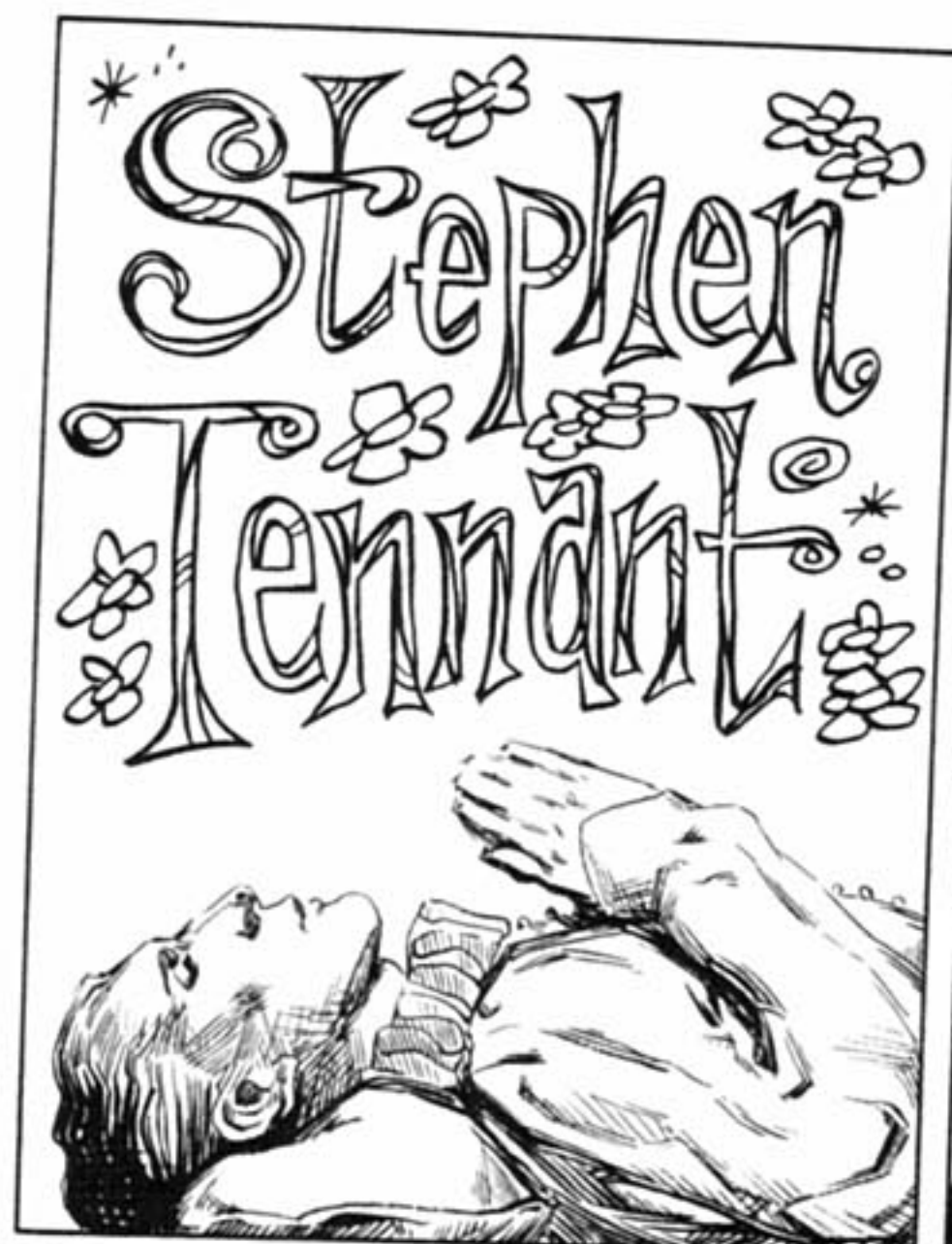


BUT HORSES WERE HIS THING.









... WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF ENTROPY. ACCORDING TO HIS BIOGRAPHER, PHILLIP HOARE, TENNANT MADE A CAREER OUT OF DOING NOTHING - BUT DOING IT VERY, VERY WELL.



TENNANT WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1906, THE PAMPERED SON OF PAMELA SYNDHAM, A SELF-INDULGENT ARISTOCRAT.



"STEENIE" WAS SO DARLING THAT HIS MOTHER KEPT HIM IN SKIRTS TILL AGES...



... AND SO SENSITIVE! EVERYTHING WAS JUST ... TOO MUCH.



BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS, YOUNG ARISTOCRATS FANCED DRESSING UP AND PLAYING ROLES...



... BEING PHOTOGRAPHED WITH POETS LIKE SIEGFRIED SASSOON BY FAMED PHOTOGRAPHERS SUCH AS CECIL BEATON...

SAY "FROMAGE!"



... AND ALWAYS STARTING, BUT NEVER FINISHING, A NOVEL.

I'LL CALL IT LASCAR, THE TALE OF A SAILOR.

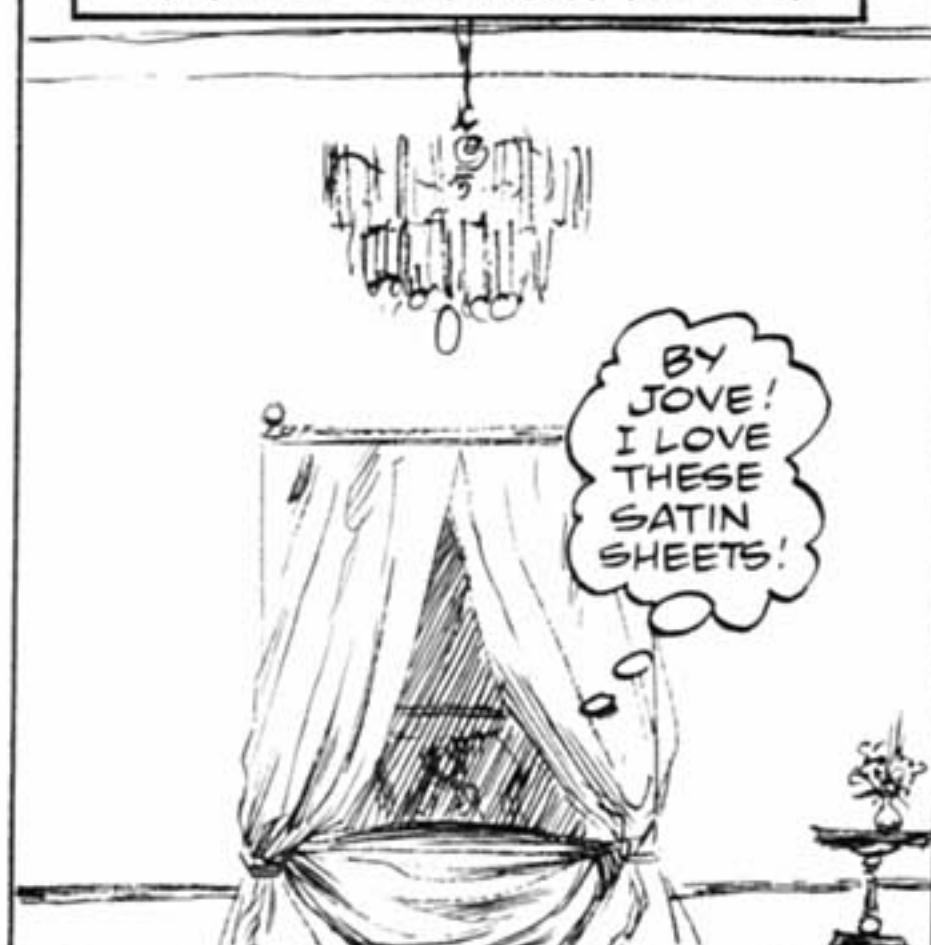


AUTHOR LYTTON STRACHEY CALLED TENNANT "EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL, BUT FRAIL BEYOND IMAGINATION."





HE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN THE ARISTOCRACY'S LAST GASP. WORLD WAR II MADE HIS KIND OF SELF-ABSORBED UNIVERSE OBSOLETE. HE RETIRED TO HIS FAMILY HOME, WILSFORD MANOR -- AND WENT TO BED.



I LOVE MY OLD VOGUE PHOTOS, TOO. I LOOK AT THEM IN A DREAM OF BLISS.



AS TIME PASSED, HIS SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE MADE HIM FAT.

BUT I'M BEAUTIFUL, AND THE MORE OF ME THERE IS, THE BETTER I LIKE IT!



NEGLECTED, HIS ESTATE WENT COMPLETELY TO SEED.

I REALLY SHOULD ATTEND TO THE PROPERTY... PERHAPS TOMORROW...



AND I SIMPLY MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT LASCAR ...OR NOT...



THE LESS HE DID, THE LESS HE WANTED TO DO.

AH, I BEGIN TO FEAR MY GREAT WORK WILL NEVER BE COMPLETE.



EVENTUALLY HE SPENT ALMOST ALL HIS TIME COMPLETELY HORIZONTAL.



FRIENDS CAME TO VIEW STEPHEN IN WHAT HE CALLED HIS "DECORATIVE SECLUSION" -- THE STATE IN WHICH HE SPENT THE LAST 17 YEARS OF HIS LIFE.



IN 1987, AT THE AGE OF 81, THE CURTAIN CAME DOWN ON WHAT BIOGRAPHER HOARE HAS CALLED ENGLAND'S GREATEST WORK OF NON-PERFORMANCE ART.



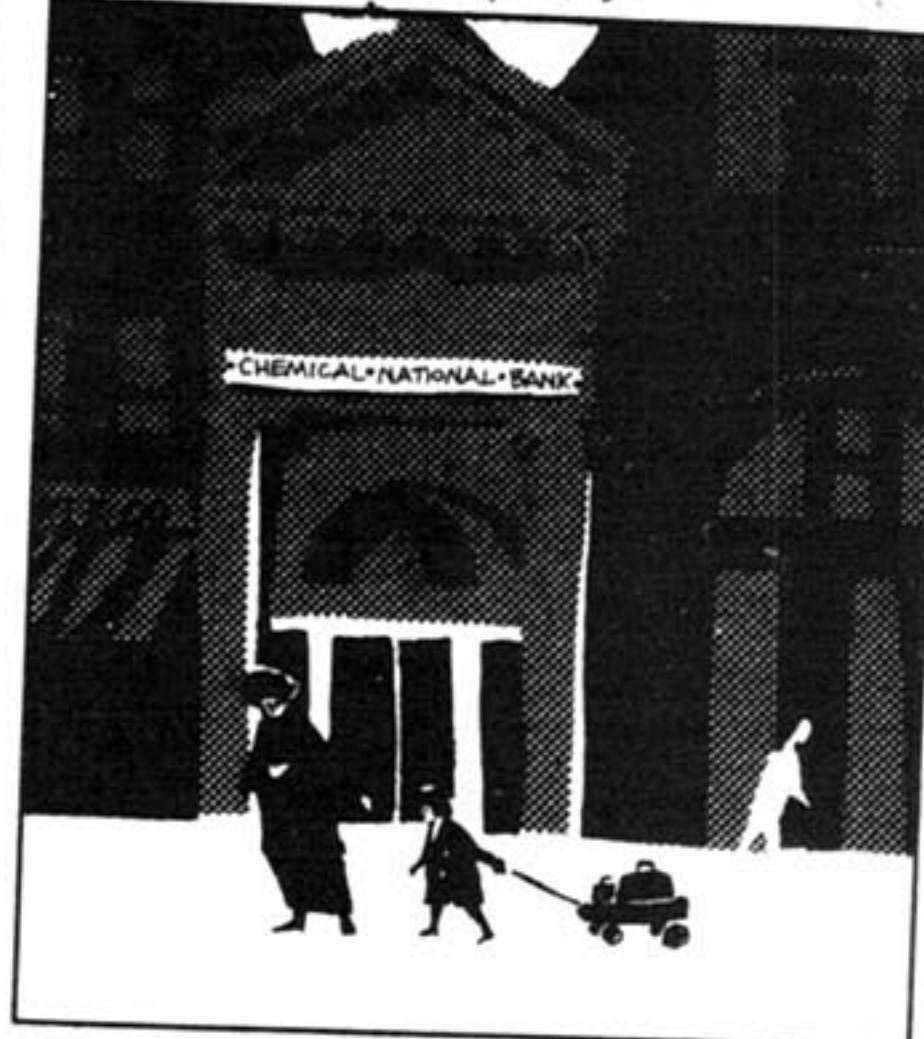


HENRIETTA HOWLAND ROBINSON GREEN WAS ONE OF AMERICA'S RICHEST -- AND CHEAPEST -- WOMEN. IN THE EARLY 1900S PEOPLE WERE CALLING HETTY GREEN...

# The WITCH of WALL STREET



SHE STASHED HER SECURITIES IN BOXES AND TRUNKS, WHICH SHE TRUNDLED FROM ONE MANHATTAN BANK TO ANOTHER.



HER PURSE RARELY HELD MORE THAN A FEW DOLLARS...



...BUT WITH DOZENS OF HIDDEN POCKETS, SHE WAS A WALKING TREASURE CHEST.



SHE HAD NO OFFICE. SHE DID BUSINESS FROM INSIDE HER VAULT IN THE CHEMICAL NATIONAL BANK.



YOU WILL HAVE TO BID HIGHER THAN THAT, SIR.

FOR LUNCH, SHE BROUGHT OUT A FEW SCRAPS OF FOOD FROM HER PURSE, OR HEATED OLD OAT-MEAL ON THE BANK'S RADIATOR.



BUT I AM DOING LUNCH, SIR.

HETTY GREEN HADN'T ALWAYS BEEN A WITCH. ONCE SHE'D LED A FAIRY TALE-LIKE EXISTENCE...



HER NEW BEDFORD FAMILY HAD AMASSED A FORTUNE KILLING WHALES.



PAPA!



BUT THE ROBINSONS WERE A FRUGAL LOT. HETTY WAS DOING THE ACCOUNTING BY AGE 8.



THEY'RE SPENDING TOO MUCH ON FRIVOLITIES, PAPA.

HER MOTHER DIED AND LEFT HER SOME REAL ESTATE. HER FATHER MOVED TO NEW YORK, BUT HETTY STAYED IN NEW BEDFORD...



WHAT IS AUNT SYLVIA GOING TO DO WITH HER MONEY?

...TO MAKE SURE HER AUNT SYLVIA KEPT HER FORTUNE IN THE FAMILY -- BY LEAVING IT TO HER.



WHO ELSE WOULD YOU LEAVE YOUR MONEY TO, SYLVIA? NOW... I'M GOING TO JOIN PAPA IN NEW YORK.

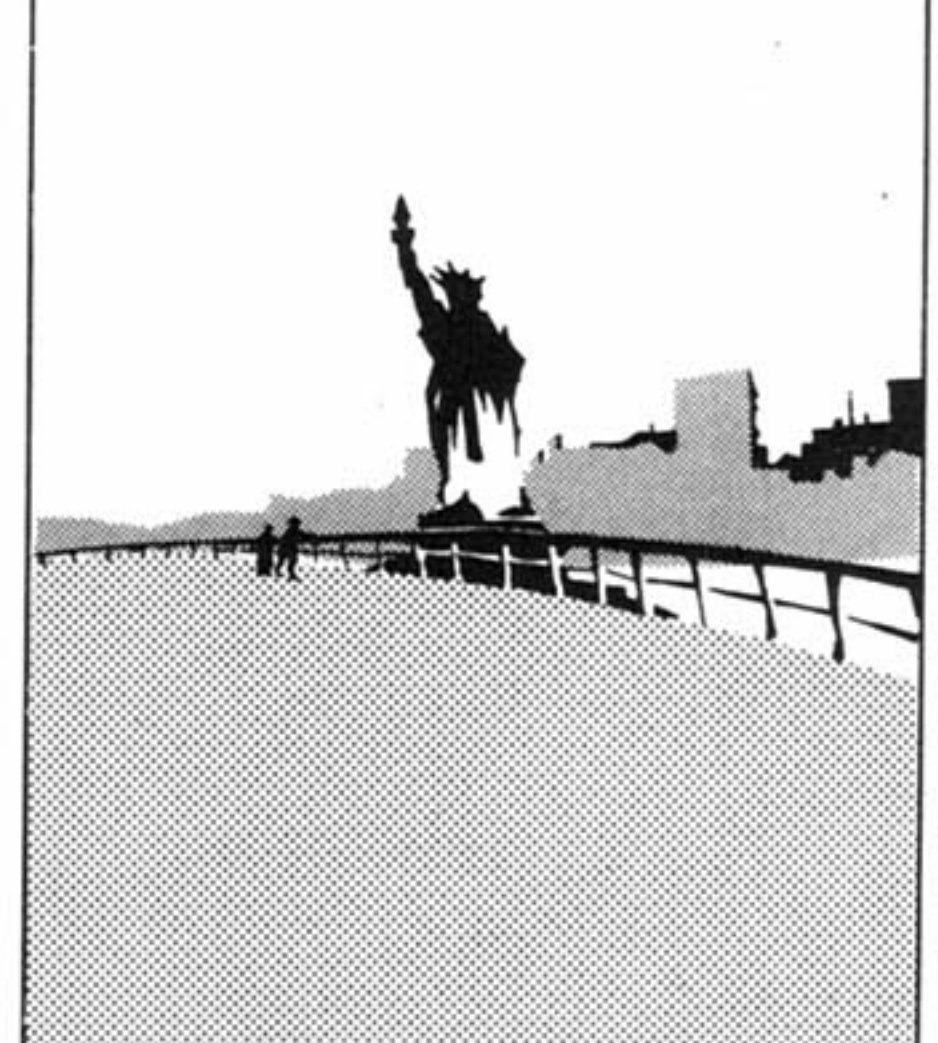
SHE MET AND LATER MARRIED THE WEALTHY EDWARD GREEN...



...AND BECAME SUDDENLY RICH HERSELF WHEN HER FATHER AND AUNT DIED ONLY A WEEK APART.



IN 1867, THE COUPLE SAILED FOR ENGLAND...



... WHERE THE FREE-SPENDING MR. GREEN PAID THE BILLS...



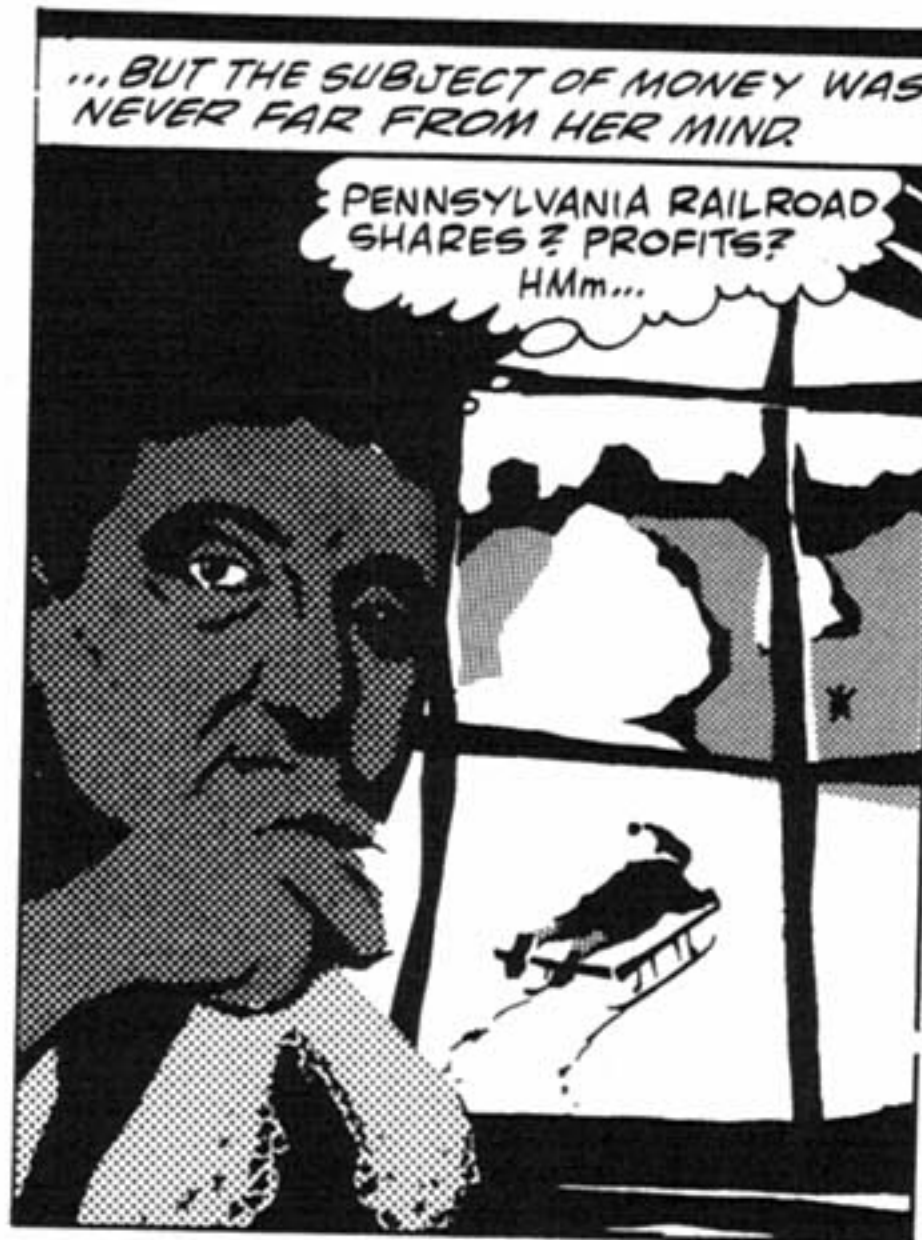
... AND HETTY BORE TWO CHILDREN, NED AND SYLVIA -- IN BETWEEN PLAYING THE LONDON MARKET.



SO SUCCESSFULLY DID SHE PARLAY HER FORTUNE, THAT UPON HER RETURN HOME SHE WAS PROCLAIMED THE QUEEN OF WALL STREET.









HETTY SUFFERED A STROKE IN 1916 -- SHE'D BECOME OVER-EXCITED WHILE CHIDING A FRIEND'S COOK ABOUT HER EXTRAVAGANCE IN THE KITCHEN.



NED RETURNED TO NEW YORK IN TIME FOR HIS MOTHER TO DIE IN HIS APARTMENT.



TRUE TO FORM, HETTY KEPT HER \$100 MILLION OR SO IN THE FAMILY.



FOR 20 YEARS, NED LIVED LIKE A CALIPH. HE STILL HAD ABOUT \$50 MILLION WHEN HE DIED...



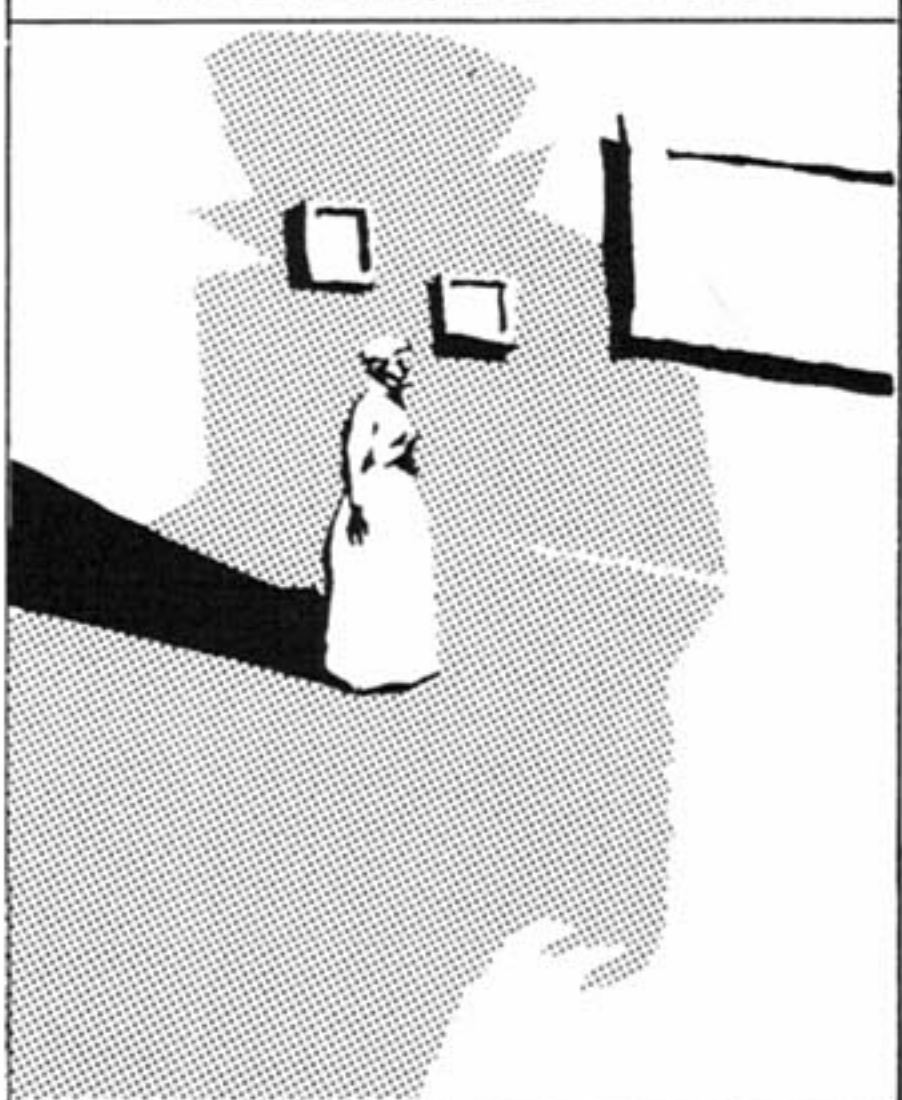
... AND, TRUE TO FORM, HE KEPT IT IN THE FAMILY BY GIVING MOST OF IT TO SYLVIA...



... A CHILDLESS RECLUSE -- BUT NOT A MISER.



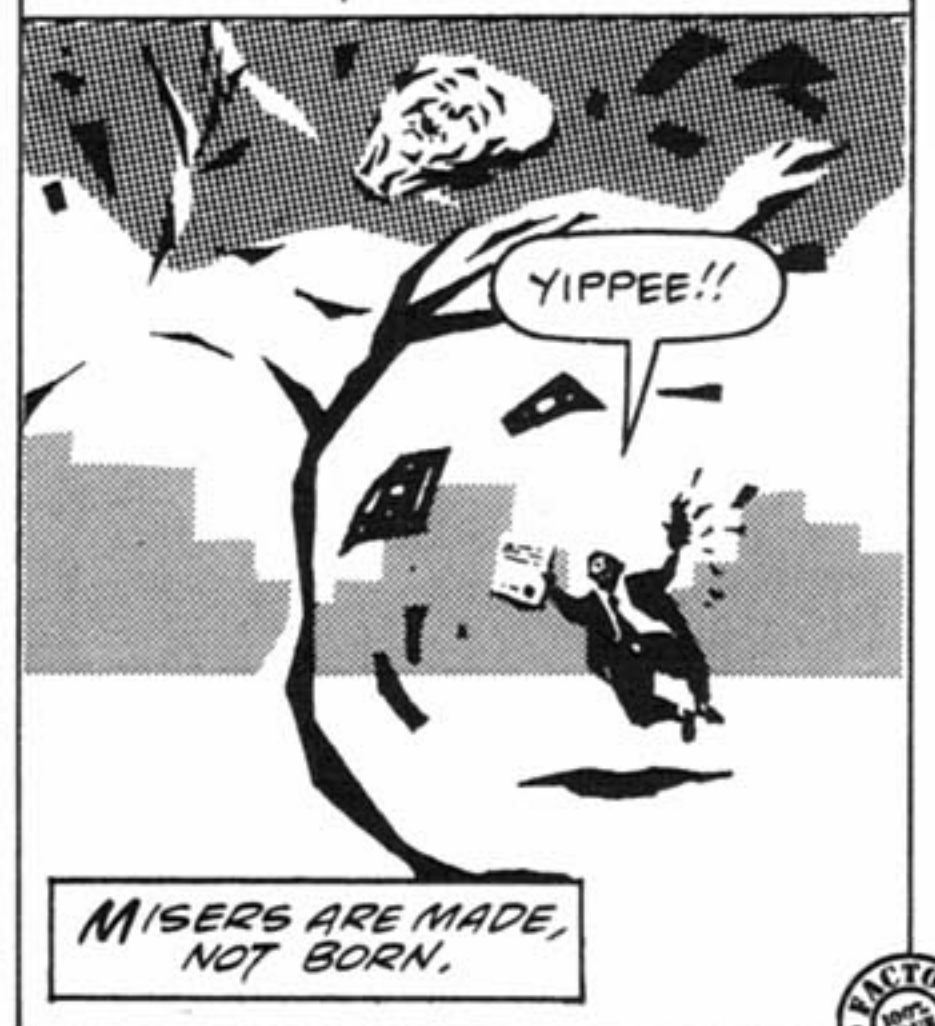
AT THE END, SHE BROKE HER FRUGAL MOTHER'S SPELL.



SHE DIED IN 1951, AT 80 -- BUT SHE'D DONE A VERY BRAVE THING.

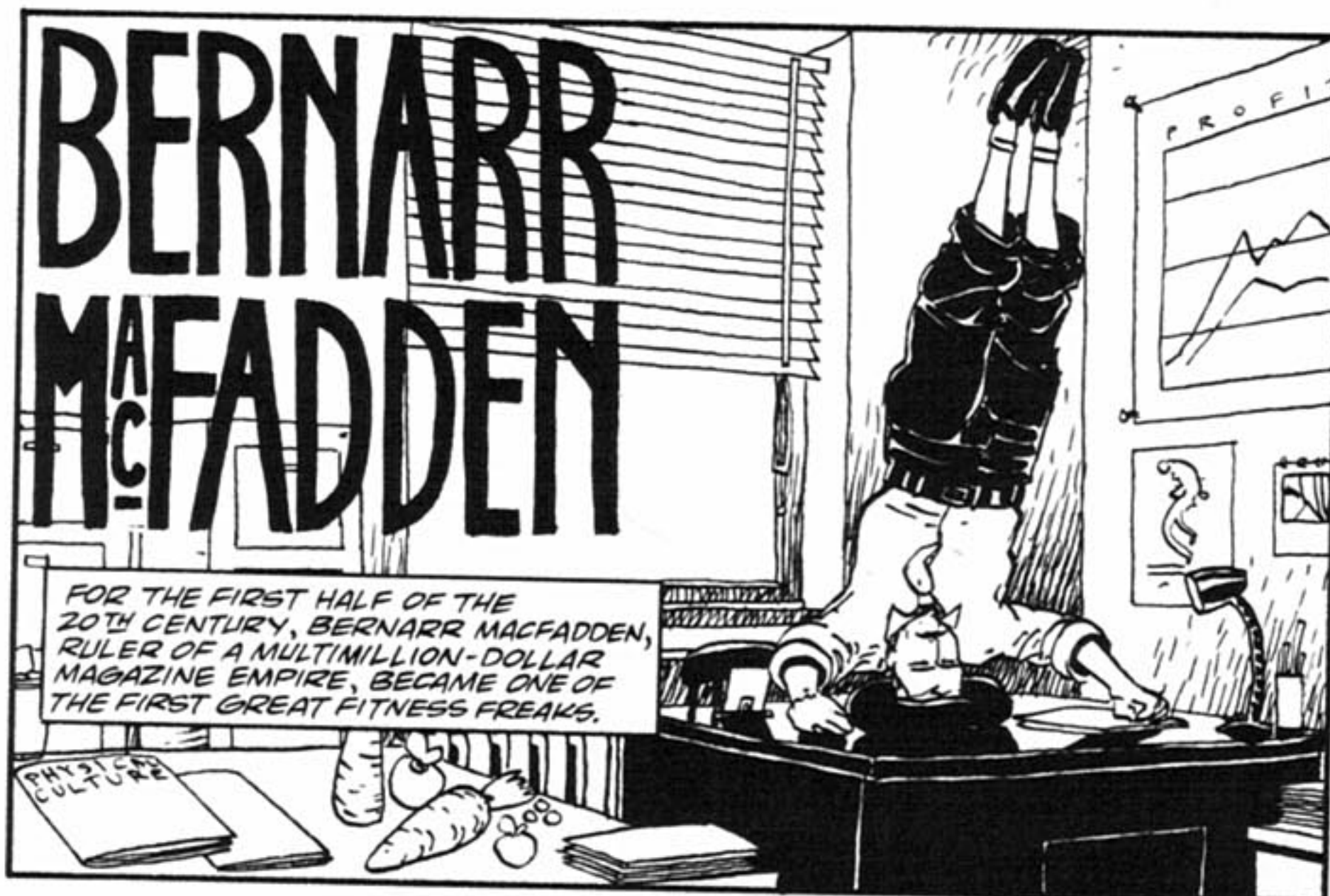


SYLVIA'S WILL SCATTERED THE GREEN FORTUNE TO DISTANT RELATIVES, STRANGERS, AND CHARITIES.

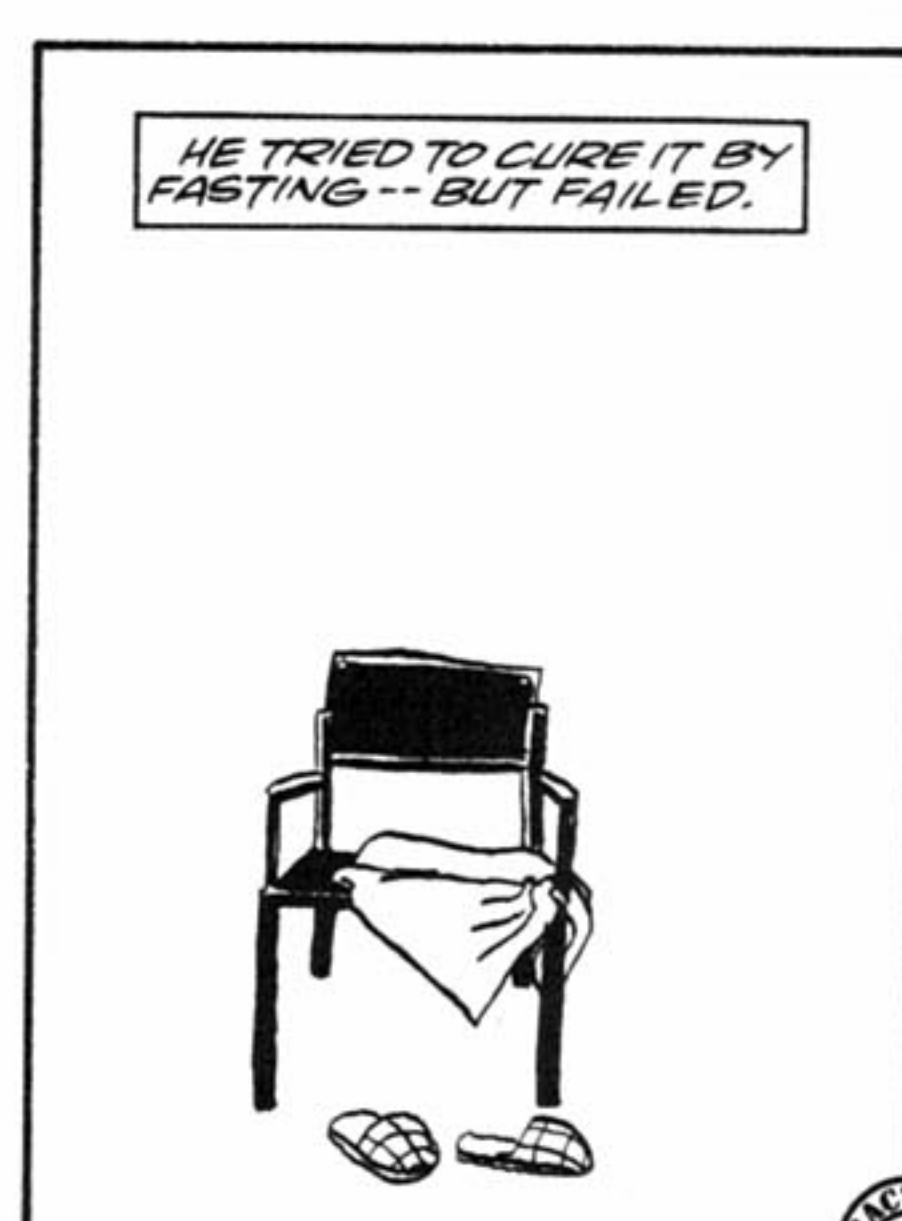
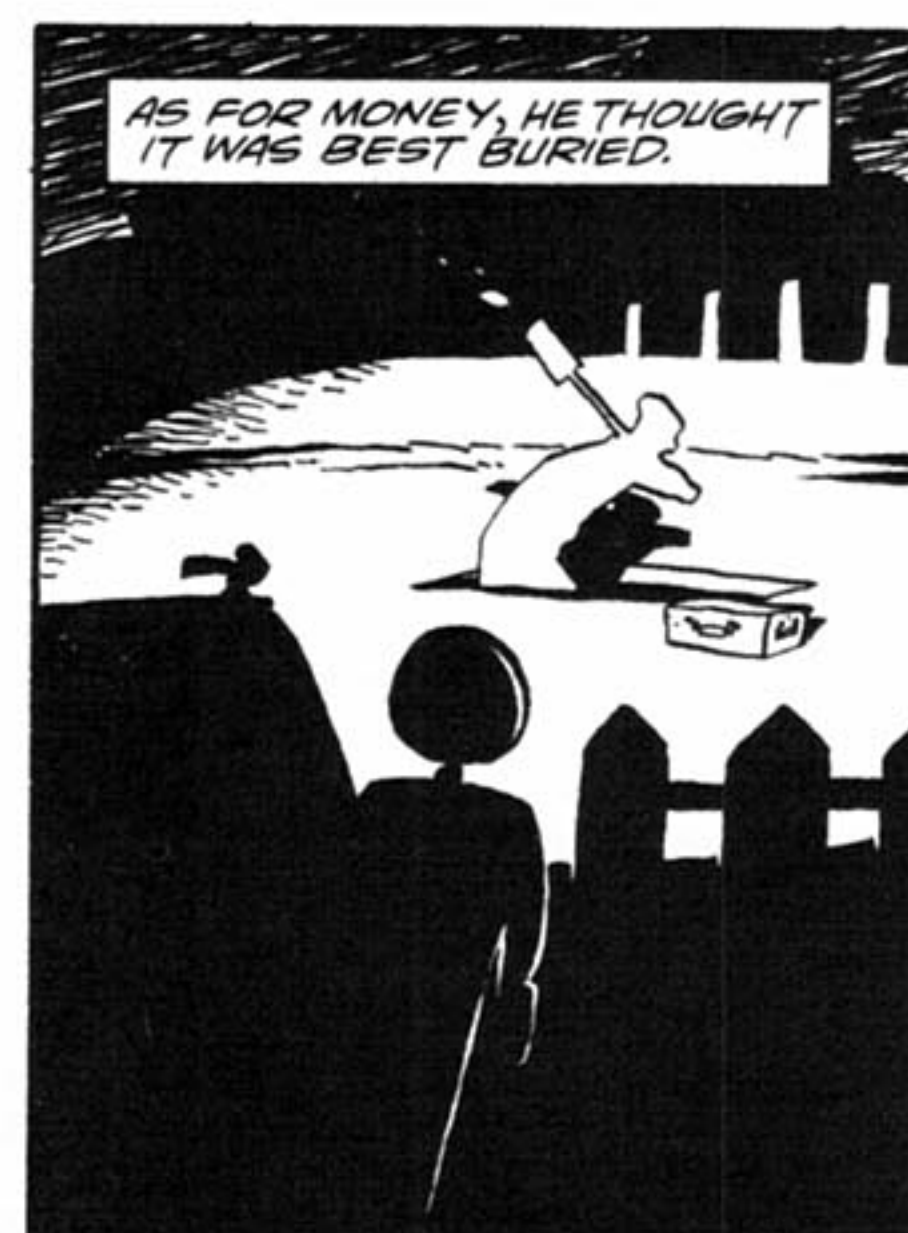


MISERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN.











# SARAH WINCHESTER

WIDOW OF WILLIAM WINCHESTER, SHE INHERITED THE FORTUNE EARNED BY HER FATHER-IN-LAW'S INVENTION-- THE WINCHESTER REPEATING RIFLE, THE GUN THAT WON THE WEST. IT MADE HER IMMENSELY WEALTHY...



... AND AFRAID. SO AFRAID THAT SHE WOULDN'T EVEN SHOW HER FACE, BUT WENT EVERYWHERE VEILED.



A SPIRIT MEDIUM HAD WARNED HER:

YOUR LOST INFANT AND YOUR HUSBAND WERE MURDERED BY THE ANGRY GHOSTS OF THOSE KILLED BY WINCHESTER RIFLES.



THOUSANDS OF ANGRY SPIRITS. THEY WILL KILL YOU, TOO, UNLESS...



YOU BEGIN BY BUILDING A HOME... AND NEVER STOP BUILDING.



STRANGE ADVICE, PERHAPS... BUT SARAH BELIEVED THE WOMAN.

SHE STARTED WITH AN 8-ROOM FARMHOUSE ON 6 ACRES NEAR SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.



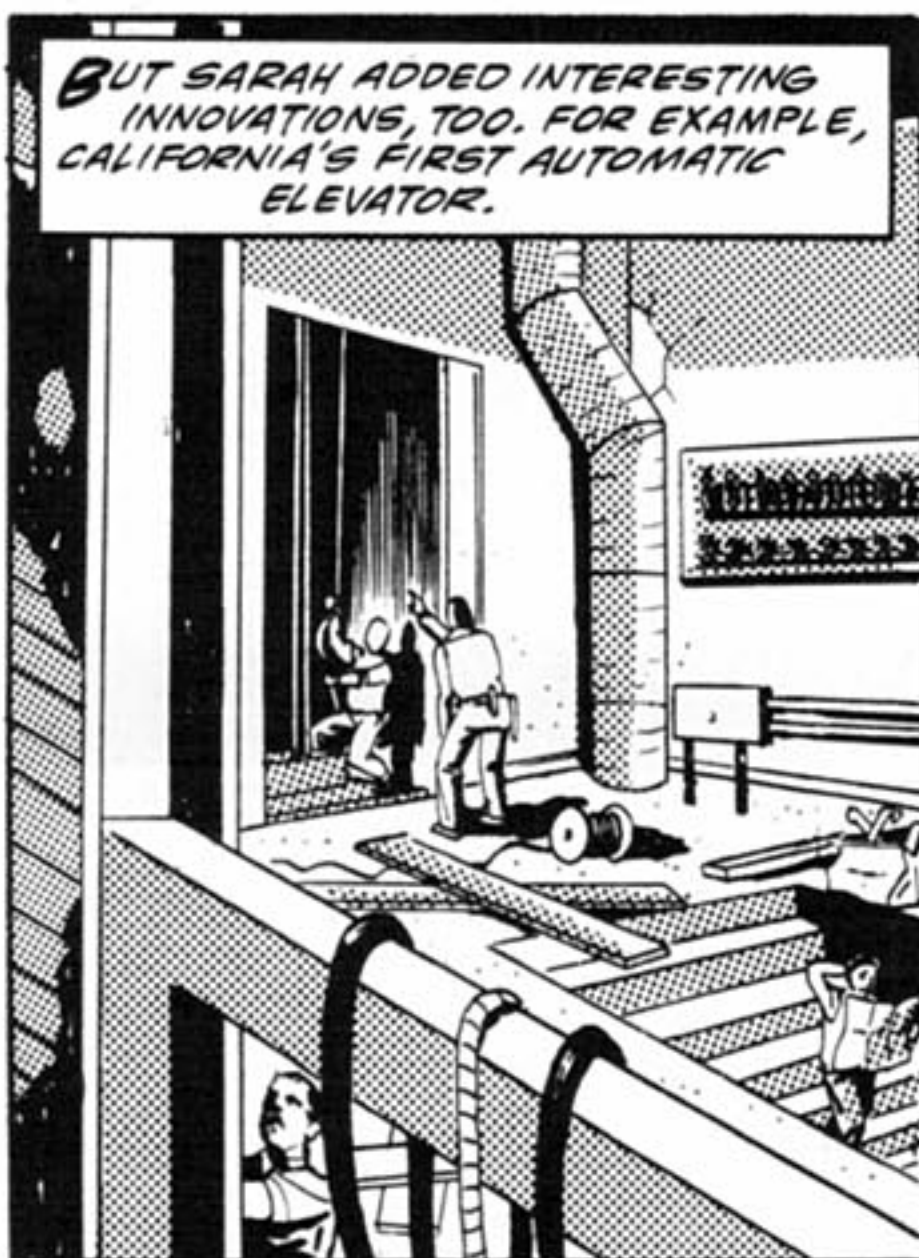
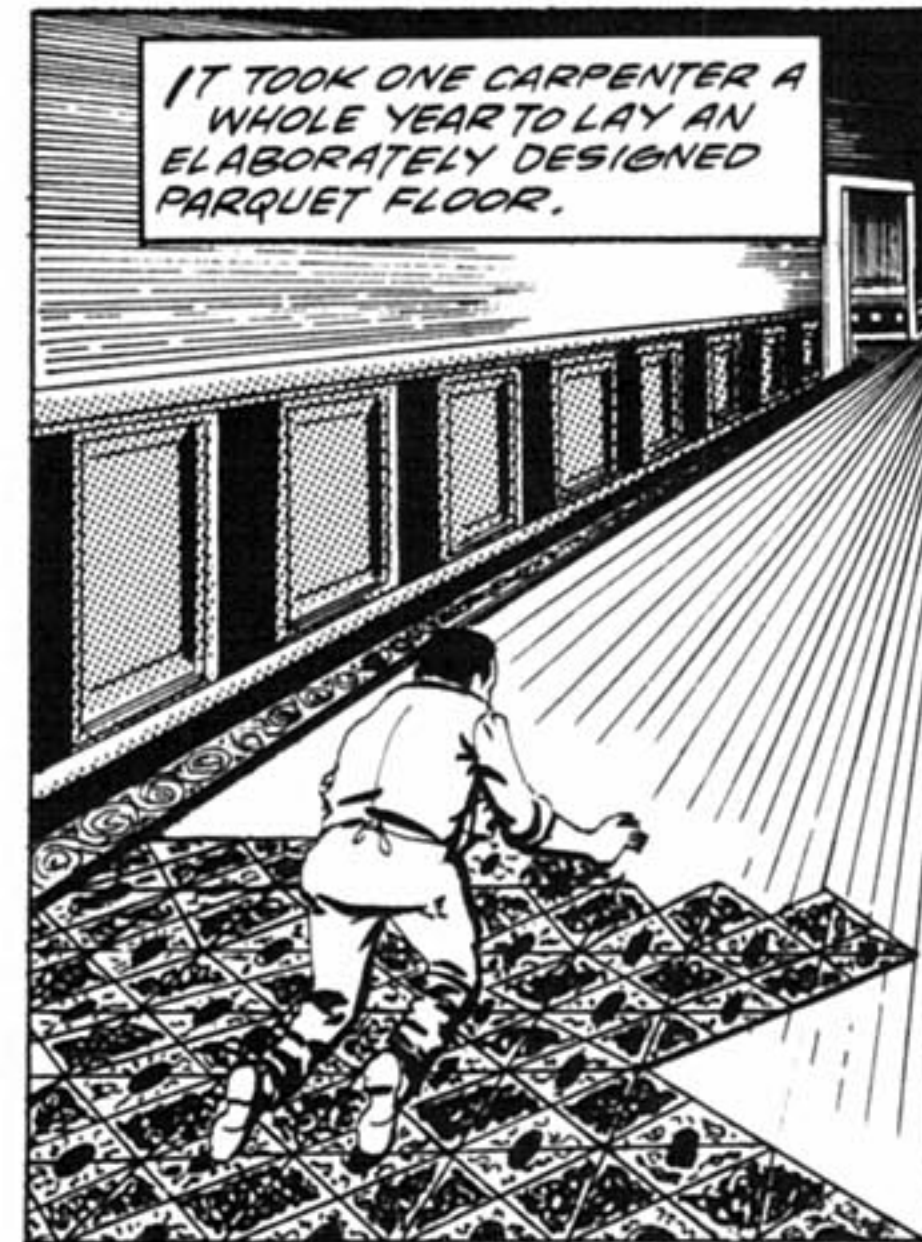
AN ARMY OF CARPENTERS AND CRAFTSMEN WENT TO WORK...



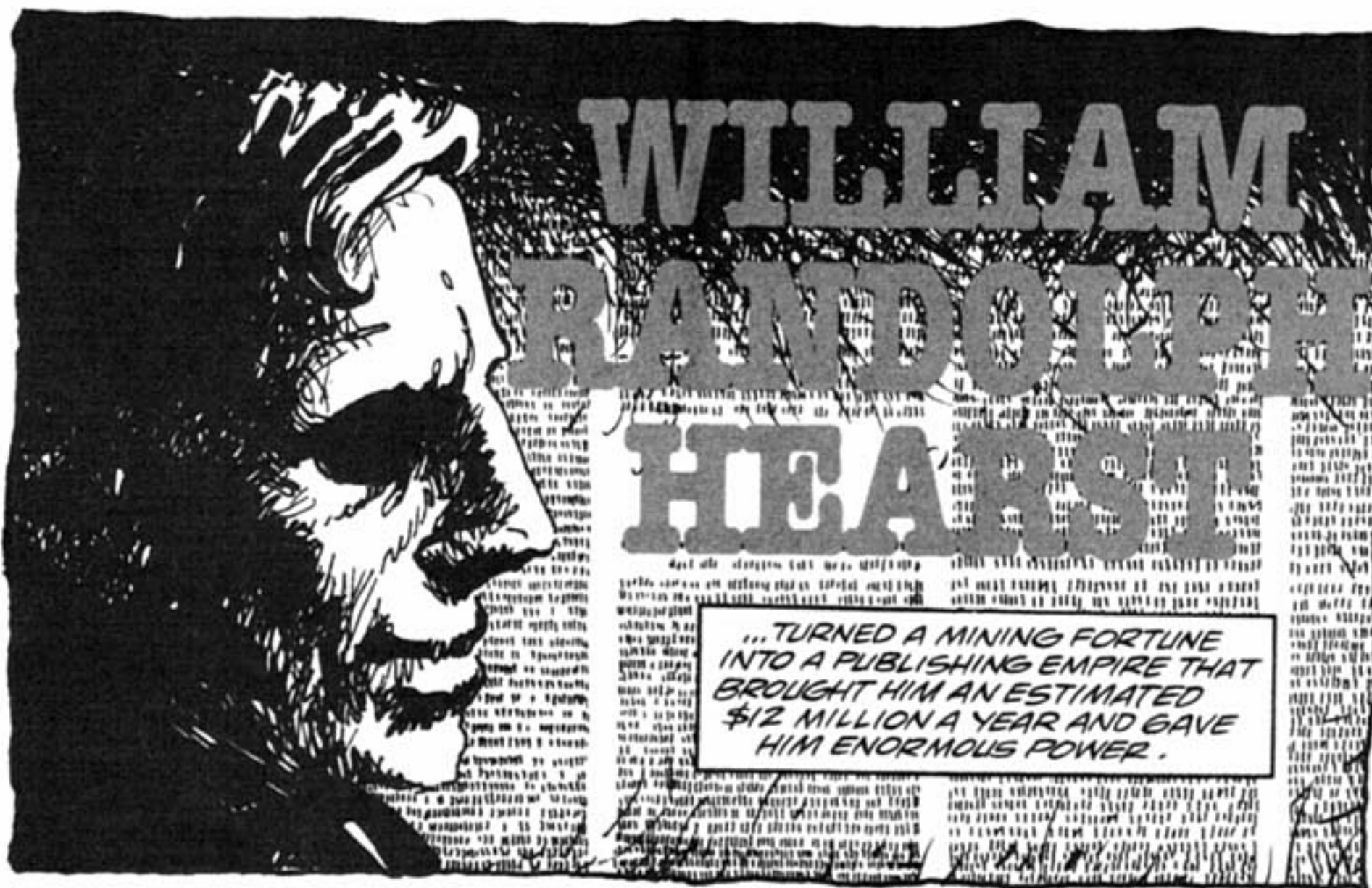
... 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. ANY PAUSE MIGHT LET IN THE ANGRY GHOSTS.















HIS DREAMHOUSE  
WOULD BE BUILT  
200 MILES SOUTH  
OF SAN FRAN-  
CISCO ON 250,000  
ACRES, WITH 50  
MILES OF OCEAN  
FRONTAGE.



HEARST'S DEALERS  
SCOUTED THE WORLD,  
BRINGING BACK  
WHOLE CASTLES  
AND MONASTERIES...



... ALONG WITH TAPESTRIES,  
SUITS OF ARMOR, STATUARY  
-- EVERYTHING.

SEND IT  
ALL TO THIS  
NEW YORK  
ADDRESS...



MOST OF THE STUFF REMAINED  
IN HEARST'S BURSTING NEW  
YORK WAREHOUSE.

I'LL JUST  
PUT THIS THING  
WITH THE  
OTHERS.



BUT SOME WENT ON  
TO SAN SIMEON, WHICH  
WAS SLOWLY TAKING  
SHAPE IN A 123-ACRE  
COMPOUND.

IT'LL COST A FORTUNE  
TO MOVE THE MONASTERY,  
MR. HEARST.

DAMN THE  
EXPENSE! I  
WANT IT  
THERE!



EVERY EXPENSE  
WAS DAMNED.  
NEPTUNE, THE  
OUTDOOR POOL,  
COST \$430,000.  
THE SALTWATER  
INDOOR POOL  
WAS A BARGAIN  
AT JUST  
\$400,000.



WILD  
ANIMALS  
ROAMED  
THE  
GROUNDS...



... WHILE DANGEROUS BEASTS  
LIVED IN A ZOO TO KEEP THEM  
FROM DEVOURING HEARST'S  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.



NO MATTER  
WHAT THE  
SEASON,  
SAN SIMEON  
WAS A  
CONSTANT  
FLORAL  
EXTRAV-  
AGANZA.





HEARST HAD HIS GARDENERS WORK THROUGH THE NIGHT...

...SO HIS GUESTS WOULD WAKE UP TO FIELDS OF LILIES ON EASTER MORNING.



BUT MOST OF THE REAL WARMTH IN HIS LIFE CAME FROM HIS "FRIENDSHIP" WITH ACTRESS MARION DAVIES.

AH, AN INTIMATE EVENING AT HOME!



BUT WILLIE BOUGHT TOO MUCH.

MR. HEARST, YOU CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.

THE DEVIL I CAN'T!



THE DEVIL HE COULD. IN THE 1930S, HE LOST CONTROL OF HIS EMPIRE.

THEY'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING, MARION! EVERYTHING!



WELL, NOT EVERYTHING. HEARST STILL HAD HIS HEALTH... UNTIL 1947, WHEN A HEART ATTACK INCAPACITATED HIM.



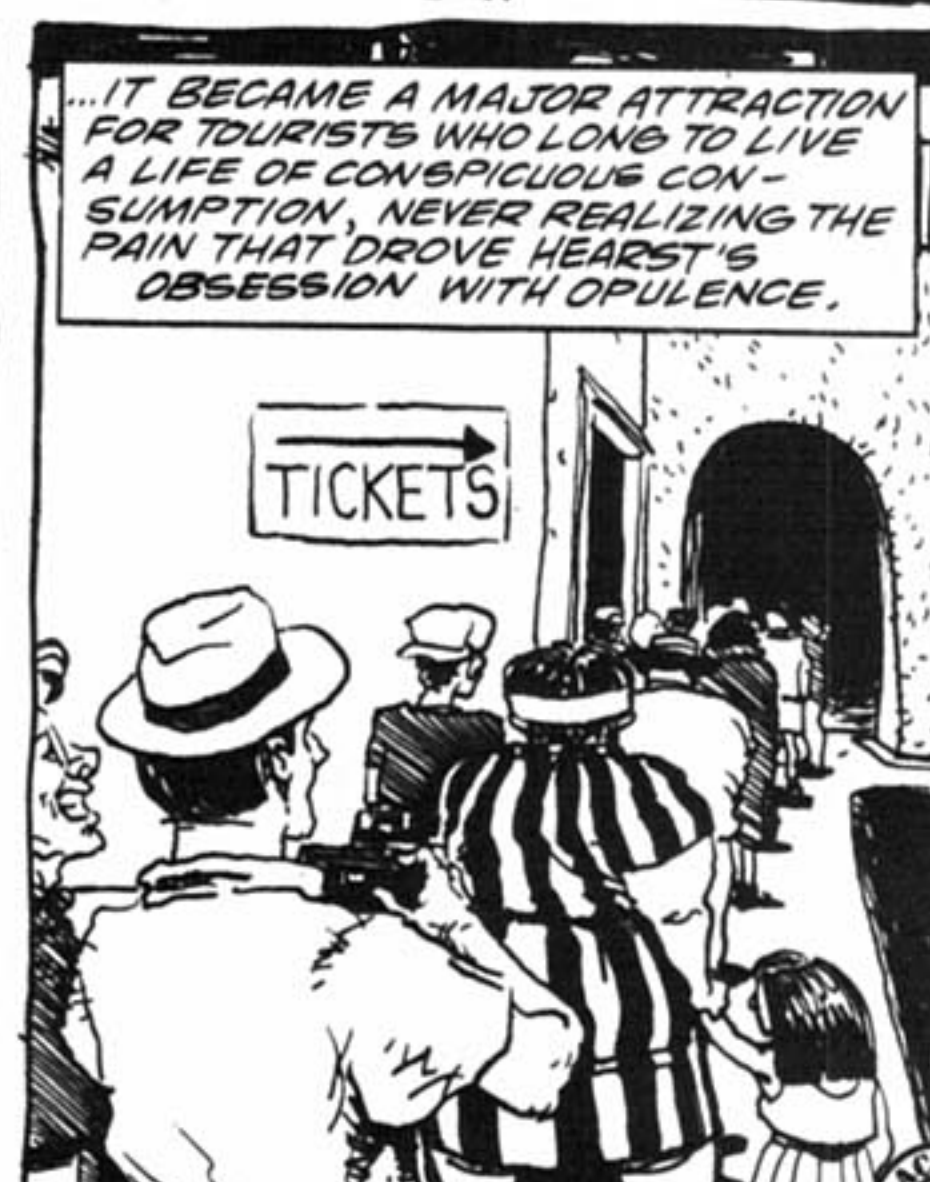
HE WAS FORCED TO MOVE INTO DAVIES' SANTA MONICA BUNGALOW...



...WHERE HE DIED IN 1951.



AS FOR HIS MAGNIFICENT SAN SIMEON...



...IT BECAME A MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS WHO LONG TO LIVE A LIFE OF CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION, NEVER REALIZING THE PAIN THAT DROVE HEARST'S OBSESSION WITH OPULENCE.



NEW YORK POLICE HAD OFTEN BEEN DRAWN BY THE STRANGE GOINGS-ON AT THE RUN-DOWN BROWNSTONE AT 2078 FIFTH AVENUE -- IT WAS THE HOME OF THE CITY'S MOST FAMOUS RECLUSES, HOMER AND LANGLEY...



BUT THE CALL ON MARCH 21, 1947, WAS DIFFERENT.











AT NIGHT LANGLEY  
ROAMED NEW YORK,  
COLLECTING THINGS.



HE BECAME  
A REST-  
LESS PACK  
RAT.



HE SAVED NEWSPAPERS FOR THE  
DAY THE ORANGES RESTORED  
HOMER'S SIGHT.

HE'LL WANT  
TO GET UP  
TO DATE.



PEOPLE WHISPERED THAT THE  
HOUSE CONTAINED AN  
INCREDIBLE FORTUNE.

I TELL YA,  
THEY'RE  
RICH!

THAT WHOLE  
PLACE IS STUFFED  
WITH MONEY!



IN FACT, THE HOUSE WAS STUFFED  
WITH JUNK. LANGLEY WALKED  
THROUGH NARROW, TUNNEL-LIKE  
TRAILS...



...THAT HE  
BOOBY-  
TRAPPED, ON  
MORE THAN  
ONE OCCASION,  
CURIOUS  
INTRUDERS  
HAD SCARED  
THE  
BROTHERS.



IT TOOK POLICE 3 WEEKS TO  
CLEAR 120 TONS OF REFUSE  
FROM THE COLLYER  
HOUSE.



AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY  
FOUND 14 GRAND PIANOS...  
MOST OF A MODEL T FORD...  
3,000 BOOKS... SEWING  
MACHINES... GUNS AND SWORDS...  
TONS OF NEWSPAPERS...



...AND LANGLEY--OR WHAT  
THE RATS HAD LEFT OF HIM.

ON HIS WAY TO FEED HOMER,  
HE'D TRIPPED ONE OF HIS  
OWN BOOBY TRAPS AND BEEN  
ENTOMBED IN TRASH.



# HOWARD HUGHES

THE PLAYBOY-BILLIONAIRE WHO SWEEPED TO FAME IN THE 1930s AS A RECORD-SHATTERING PILOT, AERODESIGNER, AND DARING FILM MAKER.

THE YOUNG TEXAN'S FORTUNE CAME FROM THE HUGHES ROCK-EATER, AN OIL-DRILL BIT INVENTED BY HIS FATHER-- AND STILL AN INDUSTRY STANDARD.



HE BOUGHT OUT RELATIVES TO SEIZE FULL CONTROL OF HUGHES TOOL COMPANY...

A HANDSOME SIX-FOUR, HUGHES WAS SMART, DYNAMIC, AND ELIGIBLE. HE COURTED STARLETS BY THE SCORE.

HE PUT SEX INTO WESTERNS.



BUT HIS GREAT LOVE WAS AVIATION. PLANES EXCITED HIM.

HIS COMPANY BUILT THEM. AND HE STARTED THE AIRLINE THAT BECAME TWA.

IN 1935 HE SET A WORLD SPEED RECORD OF 352.4 MILES PER HOUR.





THREE YEARS LATER, HE  
BROKE THE ROUND-THE-  
WORLD RECORD --  
BY HALF.



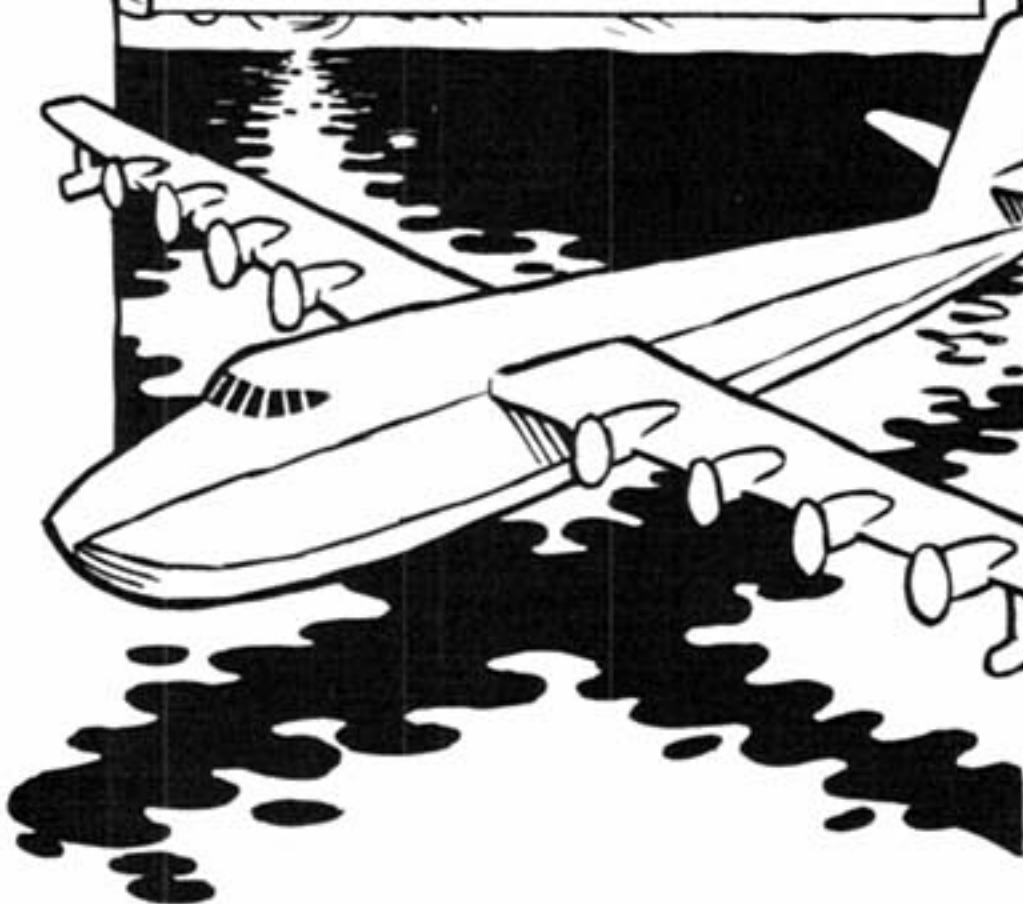
THE WORLD GOT USED TO SEEING  
THE BRAVE YOUNG BILLIONAIRE  
GRINNING FROM THE COCKPIT OF  
RECORD-BREAKING PLANES.



BUT BEHIND THE MASK OF DASH AND  
DARING, HUGHES SPIRALED  
TOWARD THE TWISTED PREOCCUPATIONS  
THAT WOULD DESTROY HIM.



HE BUILT THE WORLD'S LARGEST  
AIRPLANE OUT OF PLYWOOD,  
FLEW THE SPRUCE GOOSE ONCE,  
AND PUT IT AWAY IN STORAGE.  
HUGHES AIRCRAFT LOST LUCRATIVE  
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.



HE LOST INTEREST IN AIRPLANES,  
STARLETS, FILMS... EVERYTHING  
BUT HOWARD HUGHES.



HIS PARANOIA LED HIM TO HOLD  
MEETINGS IN  
OBSCURE LOCATIONS  
LATE AT NIGHT.



HE WORE DISGUISES TO THWART  
IMAGINED ENEMIES.



HI THERE,  
MR. HUGHES!

MOST OF ALL, HE  
DREADED GERMS.



AFTER HIS 1957 MARRIAGE TO  
ACTRESS JEAN PETERS, HE  
INSISTED ON SEPARATE  
QUARTERS TO PREVENT FOOD  
CONTAMINATION.





IN 1966, THE ERRATIC TYCOON WAS FORCED TO SELL HIS CONTROLLING STOCK IN TWA FOR \$546,549,771.



FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, HE LIVED IN HOTELS IN LAS VEGAS, LONDON, THE BAHAMAS, AND LATIN AMERICA.



ALWAYS HEAVILY GUARDED...



...AND ATTENDED BY SIX TRUSTED AIDES.

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS CLIFFORD IRVING BIOGRAPHY?



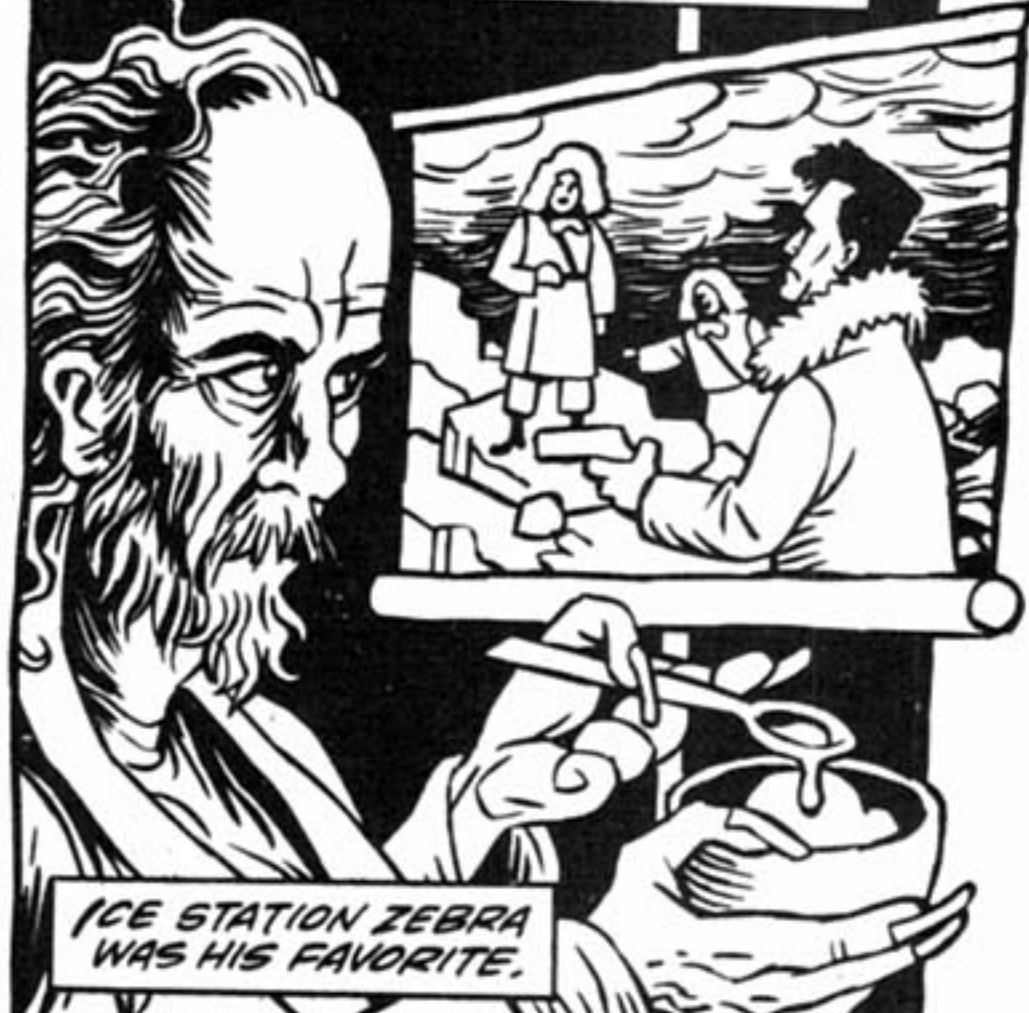
HUGHES BROKE HIS SILENCE LONG ENOUGH TO TELL THE WORLD THAT IRVING'S BIOGRAPHY WAS A FRAUD.

YOU RECOGNIZE MY VOICE?



YEAH, RIGHT, MR. HUGHES.

HE SPENT HIS DAYS IN DARKNESS, ENDLESSLY WATCHING THE SAME FILMS.



ICE STATION ZEBRA WAS HIS FAVORITE.

HE KEPT EVERYTHING--HIS URINE WENT INTO JARS, HE NEVER CUT HIS HAIR OR NAILS.



CONSTIPATION KEPT HIM IN THE JOHN FOR HOURS AT A TIME.

FINALLY, IN 1976, HIS NEUROTICALLY ABUSED BODY GAVE UP. HE DIED FROM KIDNEY FAILURE.



AN AUTOPSY REVEALED A BODY SHOT THROUGH WITH PIECES OF BROKEN SYRINGES. THE HIGH-FLYER HAD BEEN IN A GRAVEYARD SPIRAL FOR A VERY LONG TIME.





# CHAPTER NINE

## MIXED NUTS

### MISCELLANEOUS WEIRDOS

If there's one thing that can be said of all the weirdos in this volume, it's that they were unpredictable. Aside from the Gibbons Twins (*page 195*) and the Marcus Twins (*page 198*), no two acted alike. Each had his/her own individual quirks, eccentricities, and obsessions. And while we've attempted to shoehorn all our subjects into nice, neat categories, the following weirdos are truly one-of-a-kind and therefore defy categorization. So here's one final non-category, a miscellany of mixed nuts who share little in common with one another save for the fact that their lives were enhanced — in some cases, defined — by their weirdness.













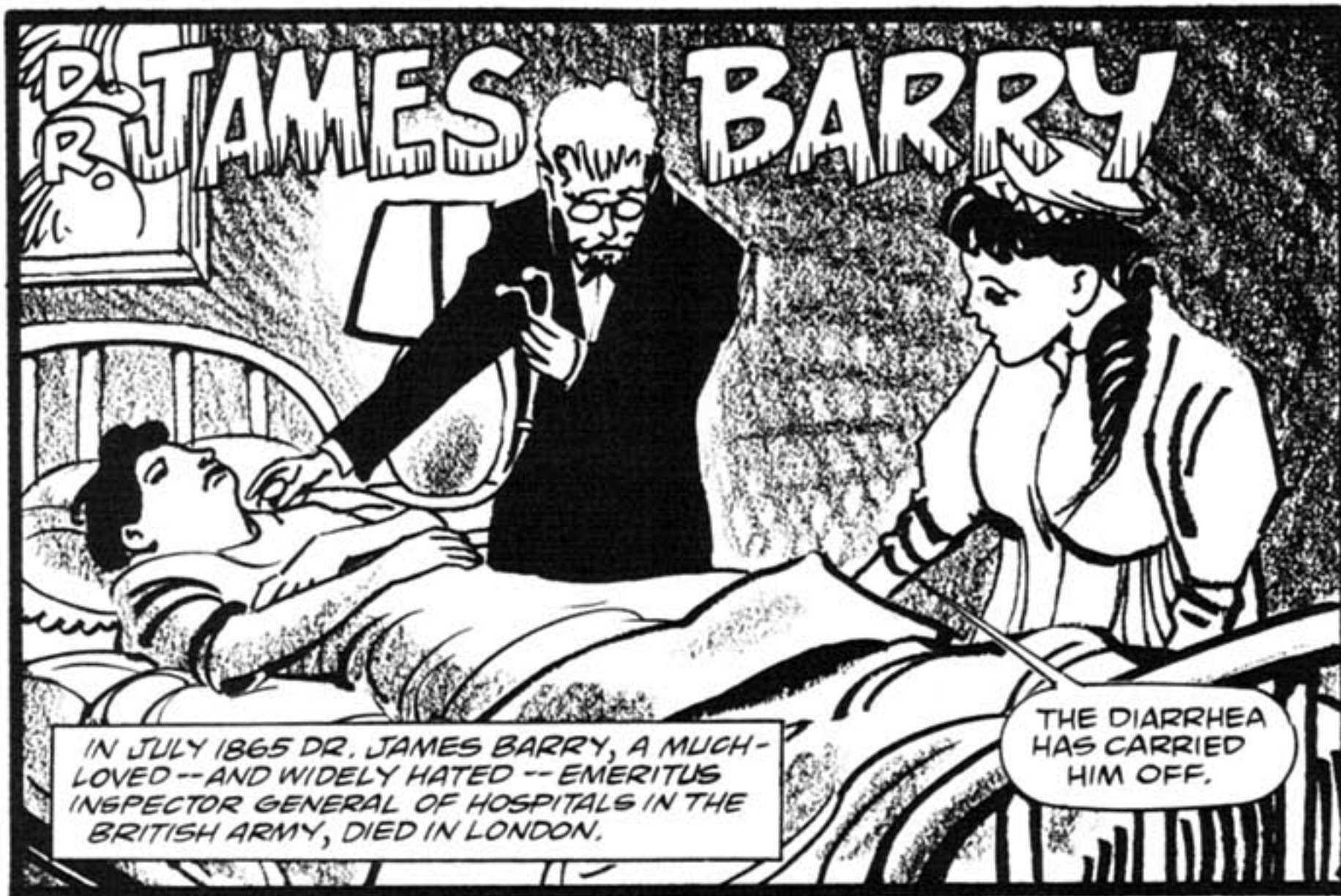


















# JUNE AND JENNIFER GIBBONS



A PAIR OF IDENTICAL TWINS, THE GIBBONS BECAME A CAUSE CÉLÈBRE TO THE PSYCHIATRIC COMMUNITY BECAUSE FOR YEARS THEY COMMUNICATED WITH NO ONE BUT EACH OTHER.



WE TRIED TO SPEAK TO OUR PARENTS, BUT IT WAS MORE COMFORTABLE JUST NODDING OUR HEADS.

...THEY TOLD PSYCHIATRISTS MUCH LATER.



THE PARENTS WERE BARBADAN. THE FATHER WAS A SERGEANT IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, AND THE TWINS WERE BORN WHILE HE WAS STATIONED IN ADEN.

THEY'RE LOVELY, AREN'T THEY?



BUT... THEY'RE QUIET, AREN'T THEY?



EXPERTS REASSURED THE WORRIED PARENTS.

THEY'RE JUST SHY.



SHY WASN'T THE WORD FOR IT. EACH GIRL'S UNIVERSE HELD ONLY ONE OTHER IMPORTANT PERSON: THE TWIN. THE SHADOW. THE OTHER HALF.



WHEN THEY SPOKE, IT WAS IN A METALLIC, ARTIFICIAL VOICE.

JENNIFER... LET'S GO UPSTAIRS.

UPSTAIRS NEVER MIND THEM.



BY THEIR TEENS, THE GIRLS HAD ALMOST FUSED IN SILENCE.





WHEN THEY HAD TO COMMUNICATE, THEY WROTE NOTES.



THEY ATE WHAT THEIR PARENTS LEFT OUTSIDE THEIR BEDROOM DOOR.



LEFT ALONE, HOWEVER, THEY COULD BE ROWDY, AND LOUD.



YOU GIRLS ALL RIGHT?



SENT TO A TREATMENT CENTER, THEY BECAME IMMOBILE AND RIGID.

MY GOD, THEY'RE LIKE WOODEN PLANKS.



EVERYONE WHO CAME NEAR THEM FELT THEIR POWER.

THEY WATCHED, SMIRKING SILENTLY, AS WE ARGUED ABOUT THEIR TREATMENT OPTIONS.



BY THE TIME THEY WERE 18, HOWEVER, THEY'D BEGUN TO STEP OUT A LITTLE.

HEY, YOU GIRLS ARE, LIKE, KIND OF WEIRD, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?



THE SAILORS DIDN'T ANSWER THE TWINS' LETTERS, AND SOON RETURNED TO THE U.S.

PRETTY QUIET.

TOO QUIET BY 'ARF.



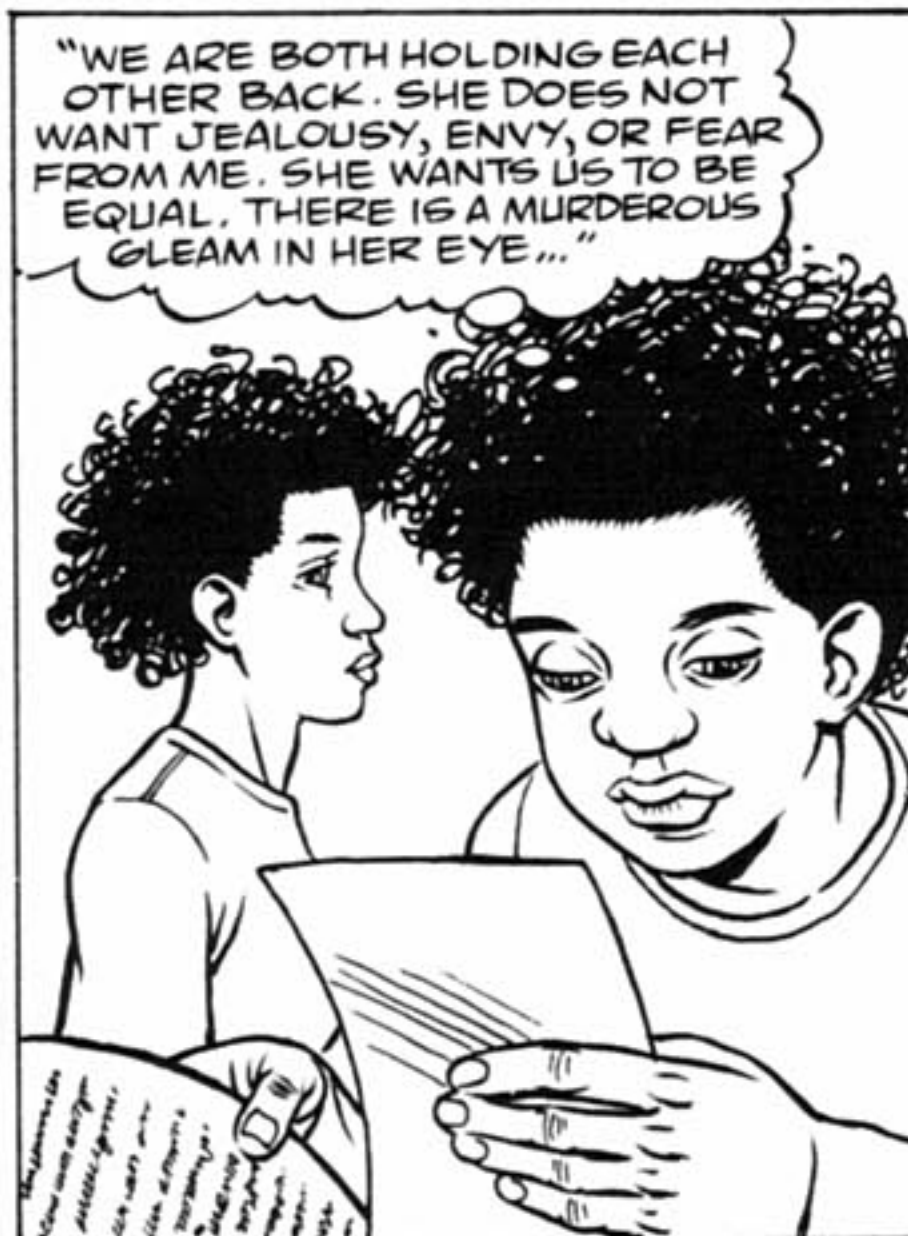
SO THEY BEGAN STEALING-- AND SETTING FIRES.

PRETTY ISN'T IT?

PRETTY AS A PICTURE.

THEY WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH 16 COUNTS OF THEFT AND ARSON.









BY THE END OF THE 1960S, IDENTICAL TWINS STEWART AND CYRIL MARCUS HAD BECOME WELL-KNOWN GYNECOLOGISTS ON NEW YORK'S PARK AVENUE.



THEIR RESEARCH INTO INFERTILITY HAD EARNED THEM NATIONAL RECOGNITION.



THEY ACHIEVED SUCCESS AS THEY'D DONE EVERYTHING ALL THEIR LIVES--TOGETHER.

THEY'RE SO CUTE.



AS BOYS, THEY EVEN SUFFERED PUNISHMENT TOGETHER.

SINCE WE CAN'T TELL YOU APART, AND YOU COVER FOR EACH OTHER, YOU'LL BOTH GET A SWITCHING --JUST TO MAKE SURE.



THE BROTHERS OFTEN SEEMED TO BE A SINGLE, COMPOSITE PERSONALITY--LIKE SIAMESE TWINS JOINED AT THE HEART, THEY DREW LIFE FROM EACH OTHER.

YOU OKAY, LITTLE BROTHER?

I'M OKAY.



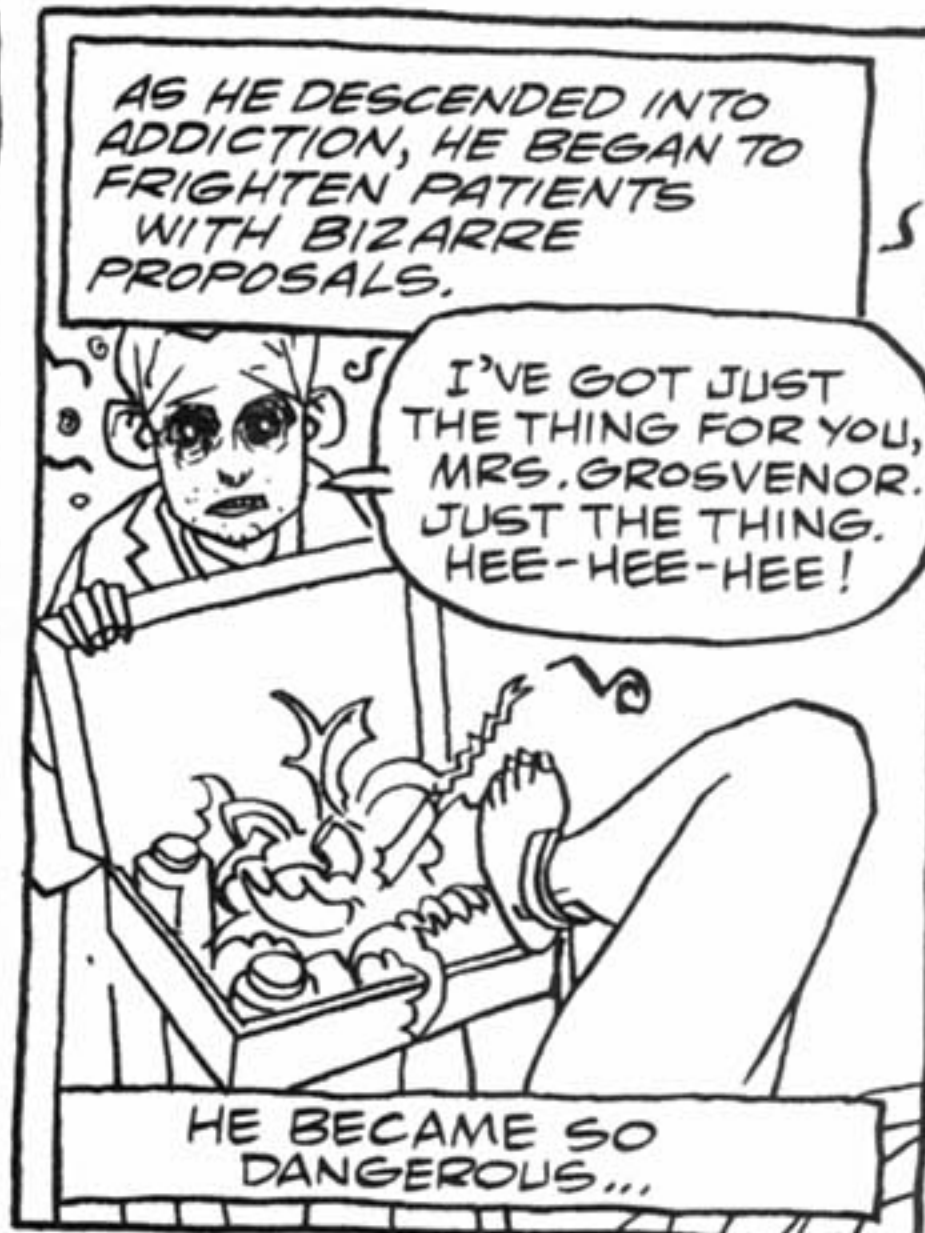
IN 1972, SECOND-BORN CYRIL'S HEALTH BEGAN TO FALTER.

YOU OKAY, LITTLE BROTHER?

I DON'T KNOW...



CYRIL BOLSTERED HIMSELF WITH SEDATIVES AND DRUGS.

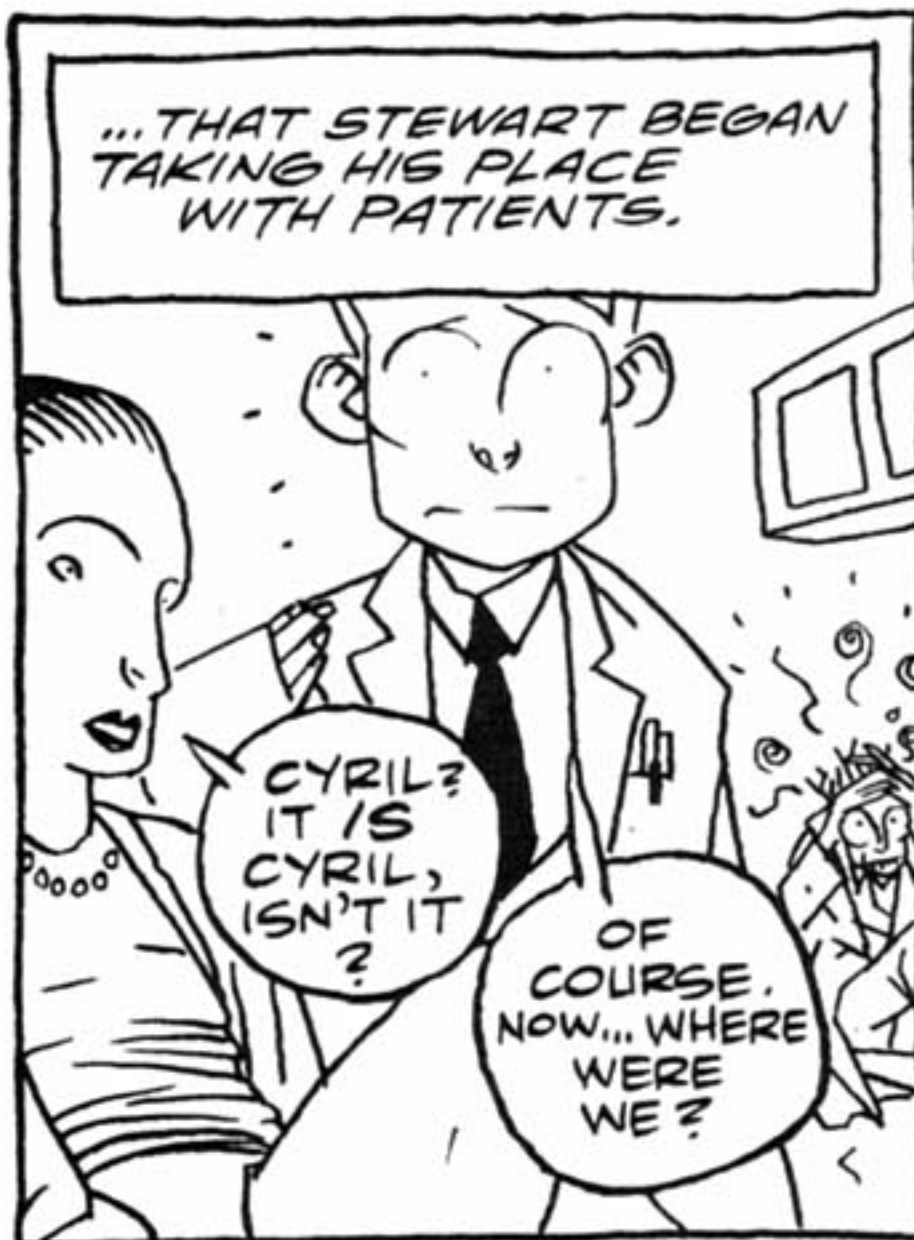


AS HE DESCENDED INTO ADDICTION, HE BEGAN TO FRIGHTEN PATIENTS WITH BIZARRE PROPOSALS.

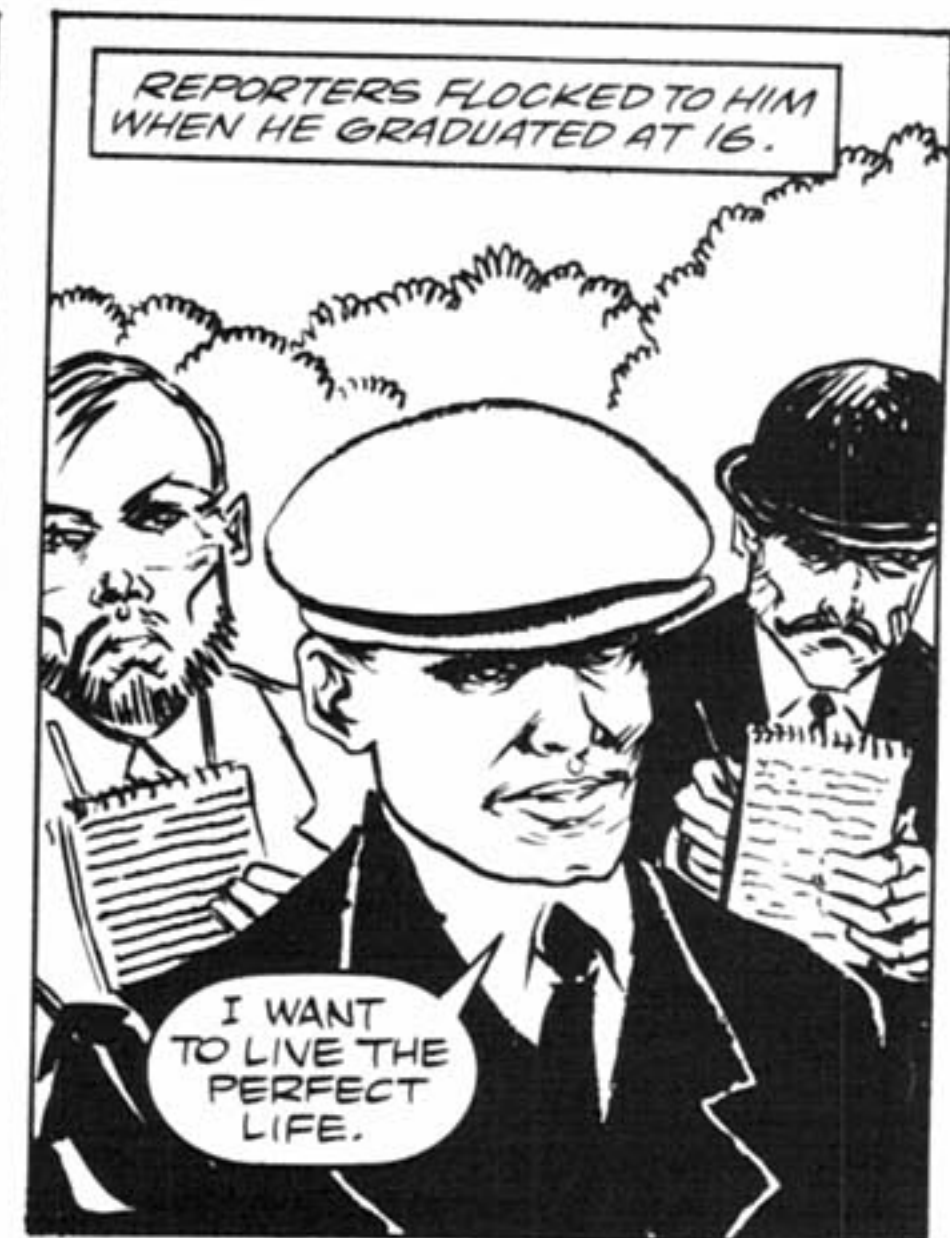
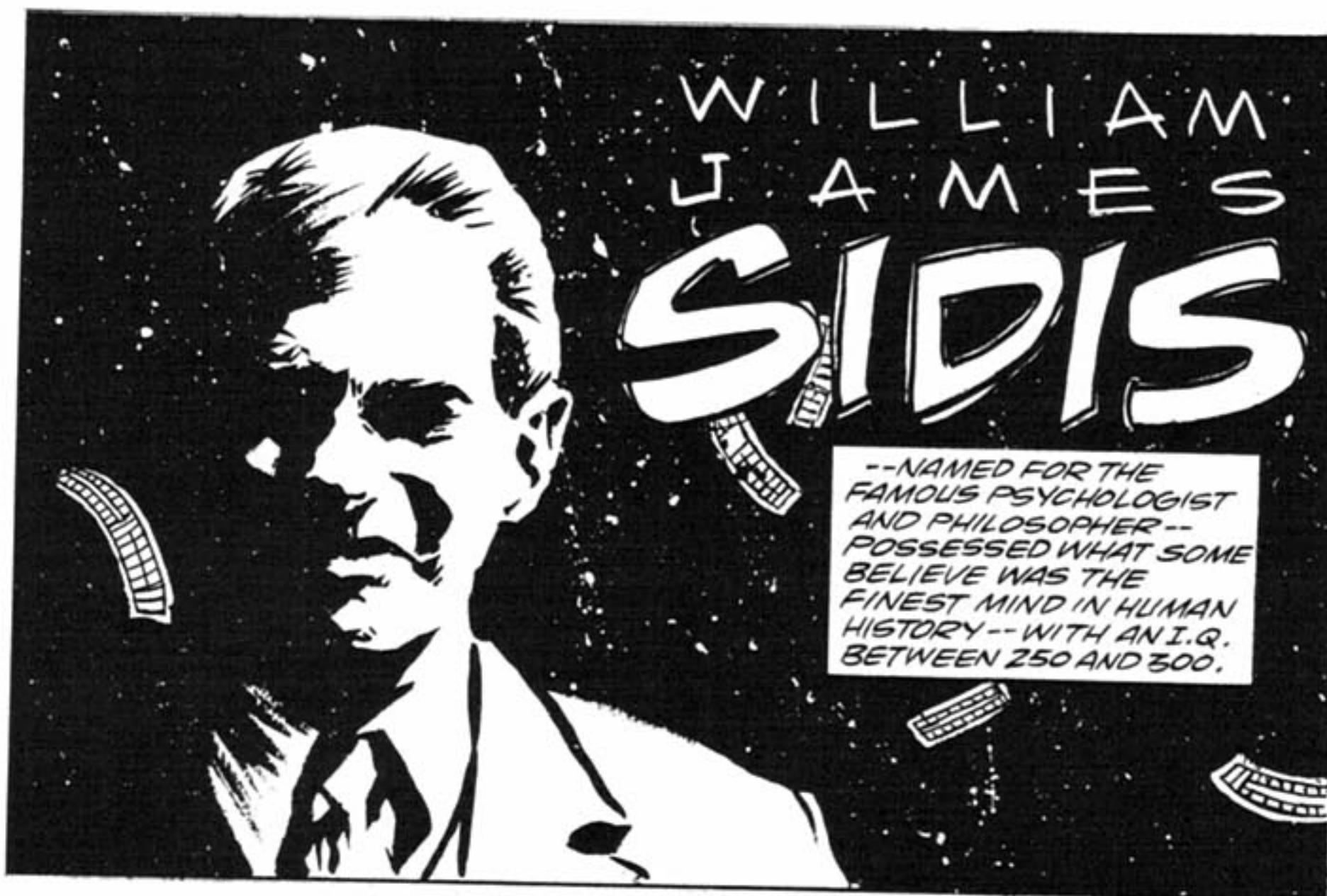
I'VE GOT JUST THE THING FOR YOU, MRS. GROSVENOR. JUST THE THING. HEE-HEE-HEE!

HE BECAME SO DANGEROUS...





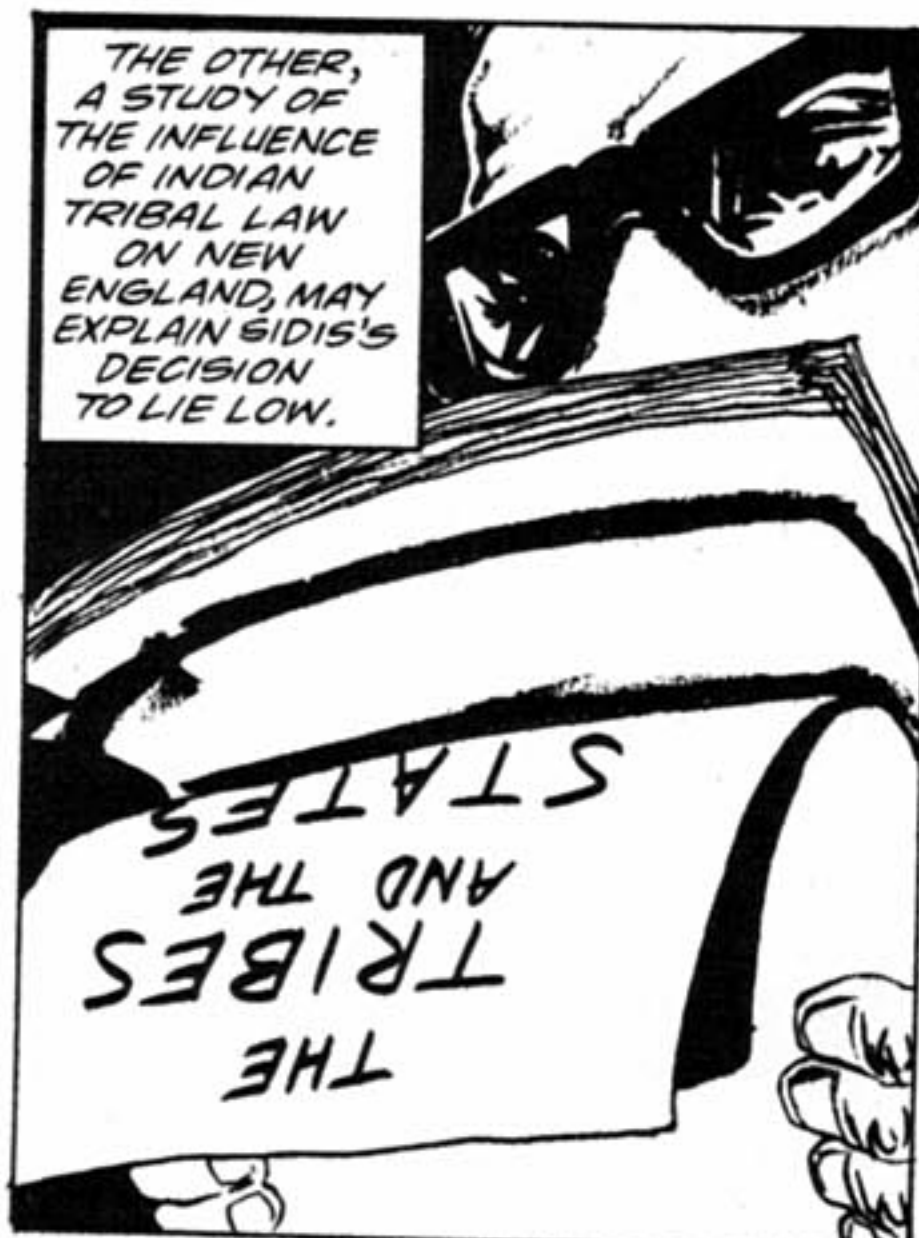






















JOSHUA ABRAHAM NORTON WAS A WEALTHY MAN IN 19TH CENTURY SAN FRANCISCO. BUT HE BECAME REALLY FAMOUS ONLY AFTER HE'D LOST EVERYTHING, AND PROCLAIMED HIMSELF...

# Norton I Emperor of the United States (& protector of Mexico)



BRITISH-BORN, NORTON SOUGHT HIS FORTUNE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND BRAZIL BEFORE CALIFORNIA GOLD DREW HIM NORTH TO SAN FRANCISCO.



WORKING IN COMMODITIES, HE PUMPED HIS \$40,000 STAKE UP TO \$250,000 -- A FORTUNE AT THE TIME.



BUT AN ATTEMPT TO CORNER THE RICE MARKET LED TO FINANCIAL RUIN.



NORTON'S SPIRIT WAS BROKEN...



...BUT ONLY FOR A WHILE.

THREE YEARS LATER, HE EMERGED A NEW AND DIFFERENT MAN.

I, JOSHUA NORTON, DECLARE AND PROCLAIM MYSELF... EMPEROR OF THESE UNITED STATES.



WEARING AN IMPROVISED UNIFORM OF STATE, NORTON BECAME A FAMILIAR FIGURE IN HIS RAMBUNCTIOUS CITY.



SAN FRANCISCANS BOUGHT HIM FOOD AND DRINKS WHEREVER HE WENT...







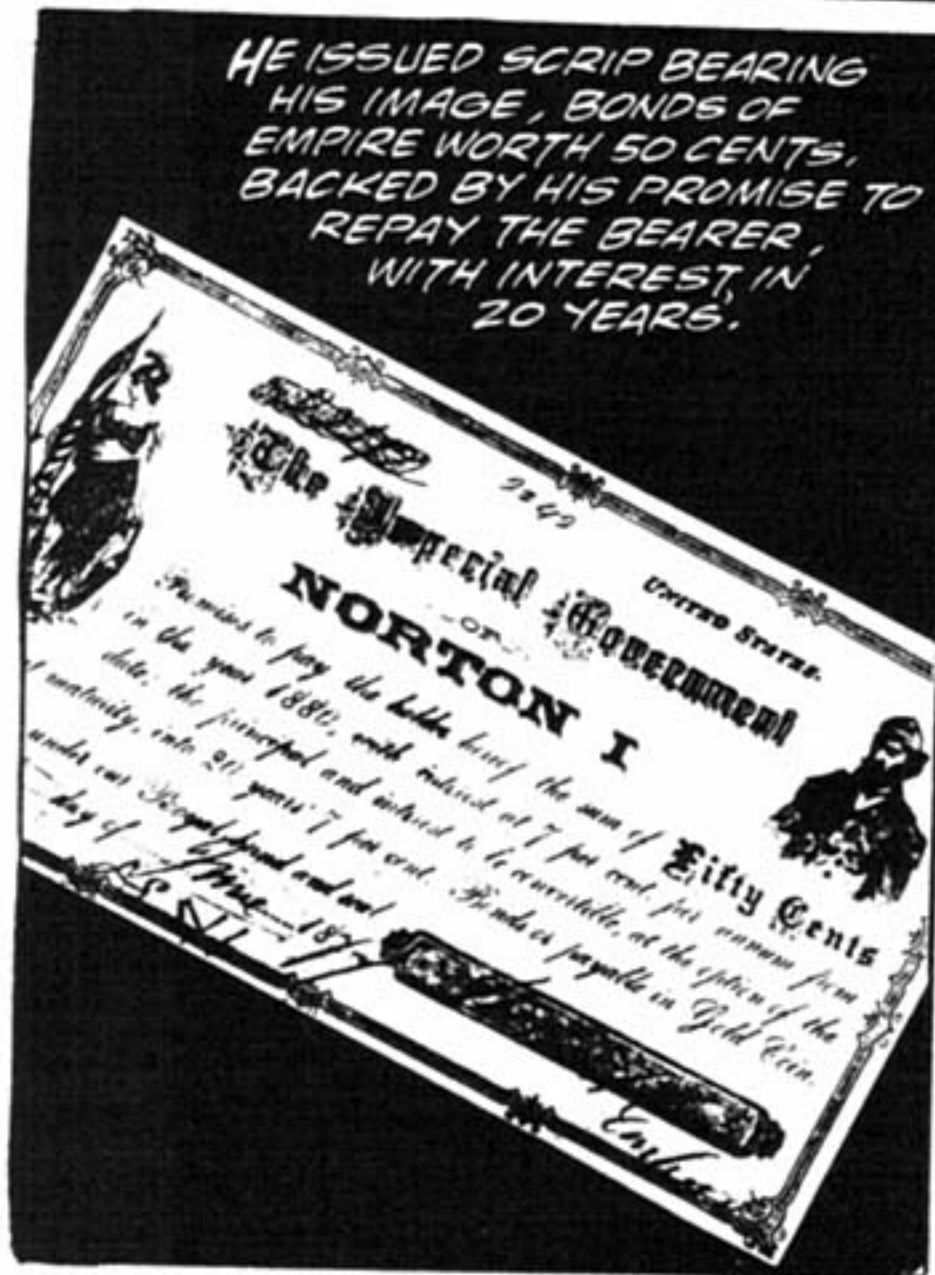
... PAID FOR HIS "PALACE" --  
A LOCAL BOARDING HOUSE...



... AND LET HIM  
RIDE FREE ON  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT.



HE EVEN WENT ON  
TOURS TO OTHER  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA TOWNS.



HE ISSUED SCRIP BEARING  
HIS IMAGE, BONDS OF  
EMPIRE WORTH 50 CENTS,  
BACKED BY HIS PROMISE TO  
REPAY THE BEARER,  
WITH INTEREST IN  
20 YEARS.



IN RETURN, NORTON GAVE  
SPEECHES AND INSPECTED  
CONSTRUCTION SITES.

VERY SOUND,  
VERY SOUND,  
INDEED.



NOT THAT HE  
WAS APOLITICAL.

I SAY THAT WE  
ABOLISH CONGRESS  
AND DISSOLVE THE  
UNITED STATES!



A COMPASSIONATE MAN, HE  
URGED JEFFERSON DAVIS AND  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO VISIT HIM  
AND IRON OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES.

DEAR MR.  
PRESIDENT,...



WHEN FELLOW-ECCENTRIC  
GEORGE FRANCES TRAIN,  
SELF-STYLED GREAT AMERICAN  
CRANK, THREATENED TO INVAD  
CANADA, NORTON I INTERVENED.

I'LL GIVE  
YOU VANCOUVER  
FOR \$1200.



AFTER 20 YEARS OF AMIABLE  
RULE, EMPEROR NORTON I  
PASSED ON IN 1880. SOME  
10,000 SAN FRANCISCANS PAID  
THEIR LAST RESPECTS.

WHAT A GUY.  
WHAT A TOWN!



# LORD SUTCH

...WAS JUST A MINOR ROCK MUSICIAN UNTIL HE DISCOVERED HE WAS EVEN WORSE AT POLITICS -- AND SHATTERED BRITISH RECORDS FOR THE NUMBER OF UNSUCCESSFUL RUNS FOR THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE.



WITH PRANKS SUCH AS HAVING JOGGERS RUN ON CONVEYOR BELTS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY, THE SUTCH PLATFORM NEVER CAUGHT ON.



EVEN A CATCHY SLOGAN DIDN'T HELP.

VOTE INSANITY! YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!



IN MORE THAN 30 RUNS, HIS PARTY FAILED TO CAPTURE A SINGLE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.

IT'S LONELY AT THE BOTTOM.



THE SON OF A LONDON POLICEMAN, DAVID SUTCH BEGAN AS A POP SINGER IN THE 1960S, AND STILL WORKS AS A PERFORMER.

JACK... THE... RIPPAN...



BUT POLITICS CALLED. HE ANSWERED BY STARTING THE NATIONAL TEENAGE PARTY WHICH BECAME THE RAVING LOONIES.

NATIONAL TEENAGE PARTY



GIVE 18-YEAR-OLDS THE VOTE... OPEN THE PUBS... LEGALIZE COMMERCIAL RADIO...

SOME OF THOSE IDEAS ARE NOW LAW.



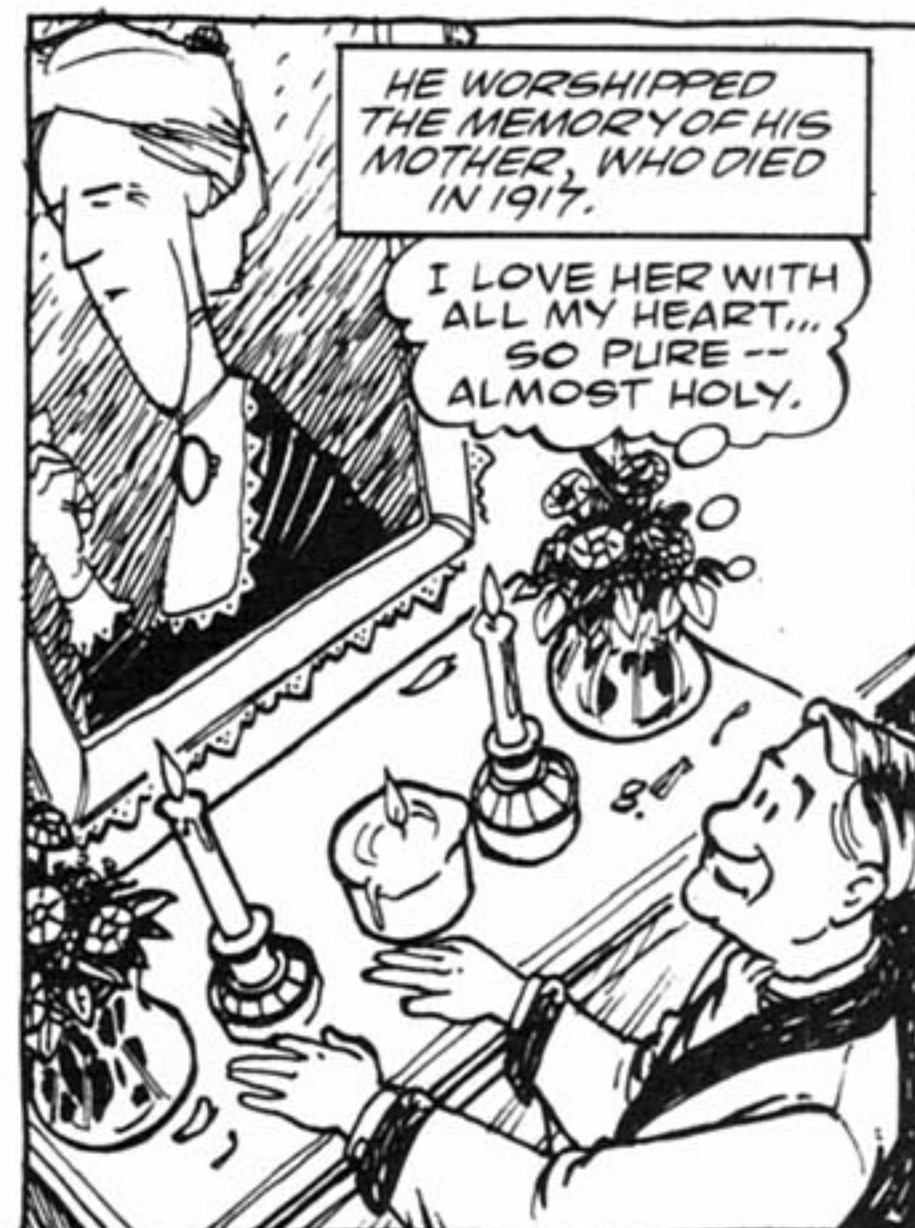
IN FACT, THE RAVING LOONIES WON FOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 1990.



CAN SUTCH BE THE WAVE OF THE BRITISH FUTURE?



# WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING









# J. Edgar Hoover

TRANSFORMED A RAMSHACKLE, CORRUPT FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE STRAIGHT-ARROW, SCIENTIFIC CRIME-FIGHTING FBI--THE INITIALS BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.



HE WAS FBI DIRECTOR FOR 48 YEARS, UNTIL HIS DEATH, AT 77, IN 1972, WHEN THEN-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON CALLED HIM:



"...A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF COURAGE, PATRIOTISM, AND GRANITELIKE HONESTY AND INTEGRITY."



HOOVER WAS THE FIRST U.S. CIVIL SERVANT TO RECEIVE A STATE FUNERAL.



BUT EVEN HIS GREATEST ADMIRERS WERE WARY OF HIM.

EHRlichman, WE MAY HAVE ON OUR HANDS HERE A MAN WHO WILL PULL THE TEMPLE DOWN WITH HIM, INCLUDING ME.



THE MAN WHO WOULD BECOME AMERICA'S OMNIPOTENT G-MAN WAS BORN JOHN EDGAR HOOVER IN 1895, AND SPENT ALMOST HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN HIS HOMETOWN--WASHINGTON, D.C.



AFTER GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, HE ENTERED FEDERAL SERVICE IN 1924...



"...AND SETTLED INTO A QUIET, DEDICATED, BACHELOR EXISTENCE IN THE CAPITAL."

QUIET, BUT AS THINGS TURNED OUT, NOT THAT QUIET.

















ACCORDING TO A 1993 BIOGRAPHY, J. EDGAR'S SECRET WAS NAMED MARY HOOVER.

NO QUESTION, AMERICA'S TOP COP LOOKED GOOD IN BLACK.

ONE ACCOUNT HOLDS THAT, AT THE HOME OF JOE MCCARTHY'S FORMER ATTORNEY, ROY COHN, HOOVER HAD APPEARED AS MARY...

ROY... YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BOYS?

THEY'RE WAITING, UH, MARY!

COHN LATER REMARKED TO A FRIEND: "THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING, WASN'T IT, WITH MARY HOOVER?"

HOOVER HAD SO MUCH ON EVERYBODY ELSE, HE BELIEVED IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT PEOPLE HAD ON HIM.

ISN'T THAT...?

HUSH, OF COURSE IT ISN'T.

HOOVER WAS RIGHT--HE HAD NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

... WITH ONE EXCEPTION.

THEY'RE <sup>GASP</sup> FROM THE MOB.

MOB? WHAT MOB?

SOME BELIEVE THAT THE MOB'S INCRIMINATING PHOTOS OF HOOVER AND TOLSON HAD KEPT THE FBI OFF ORGANIZED CRIME.

LOOKIT DIS ONE-- J. EDGAR IN ALL HER GLORY!!

KNOW WHAT, HONEY?

NO, WHAT?

I DREAMED ABOUT DILLINGER AGAIN LAST NIGHT.

THOSE G-MEN, ALWAYS TALKING SHOP!





# BIO-

## WRITER

### CARL A. POSEY

Until about age 20, Carl A. Posey's main ambition was to write and draw a comic strip of his own. Instead, he became an award-winning science journalist, the author of five novels (the latest is *Bushmaster Fall*, 1992), and an editor at DC Comics' corporate cousin, Time-Life Books, in Alexandria, Virginia. He still draws, but not in this volume — his first book-length foray into the world of graphic storytelling.

## LETTERER

### ROD OLLERENSHAW

Rod has a last name that originates in Derby, England and means "Dweller by the Alder Grove." In real life, he dwells in New Jersey.

## ARTISTS

### GARY AMARO

Gary enjoys wrassling cassowaries and can navigate the lengths of the Pampas Grasslands in Argentina blindfolded. He draws *The Books of Magic* for DC/Vertigo. (Page 102)

### MARK BADGER

Mark has drawn lots of comics. Along with the coolest cartoonists in the world, his work appears in *Instant Piano*, a comic done just for the fun of it. (Page 30)

### RUSSELL BRAUN

I am happy to have survived the experience with both ears, both eyes, and both mouths (you'd need two to talk as much as I do). (Page 131)

### RICHARD CASE

A collector of things strange, Case is known to have drawn pictures for *Doom Patrol* and *Ghostdancing*, and has recently discovered the joys of coffee. (Page 142)

### DONALD DAVID

Donald David was imprisoned in the bowels of a Canadian art school for attempting to prove that comics were a valid medium for self-expression. To this day, he is haunted by the experience. (Page 82)

### AL DAVISON

A black belt in karate who performs his own plays, Al Davison lives in London with his lover, Maggie. Born paralyzed (spina-bifida), he wasn't expected to live/walk. Life's funny sometimes. (Page 96)

### DAVE DEVRIES

While posing as a popular super-hero, Dave was pummeled silly by angry conventiongoers who were incensed that his costume lacked trousers. (Page 84)

### D'ISRAELI D'EMON DRAUGHTSMAN

I live in Sheffield, England with my mummy and a nice kitty. If I'm good, doctor says I can stop having the injections. (Page 174)

### FELIKS DOBRIN

Feliks was born in Kiev, U.S.S.R. in 1962 and came to the United States two years ago. He is the artist of *Welcome Danger*, the first comic ever produced in the Ukraine. (Page 154)

### RANDY DuBURKE

Randy is a cover artist for DC Comics, having worked on *Animal Man*, *Darkstars*, *Ms. Tree*, and *The Shadow*. He is also the artist on *Hunter's Heart*, a graphic novel to be published in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 8)

### LEO DURAÑONA

Leo Durañona was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His past work includes DC's *House of Horrors* and Warren's *Creepy* and *Eerie*, and *Race of Scorpions*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Predator* for Dark Horse. (Page 88)

### KIERON DWYER

A professional for seven years, Kieron has pencilled, inked, colored and/or painted *Captain America*, *Batman*, *Robin*, *Hellraiser*, and *Lobo*. He is very proud of his work on *The Torch of Liberty*. (Page 205)

### HUNT EMERSON

Hunt Emerson has drawn "underground" comics for twenty years, including Knockabout Comics' *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner*, and the highly acclaimed *Casanova's Last Stand*. (Page 124)

### JIM FERN

Jim started as an inker on various Marvel titles in 1983. He began pencilling in 1987, and has drawn *L.E.G.I.O.N '90*, *Detective*, *Adventures of Superman*, and most recently the *Scarlett* series for DC. (Page 104)



**SIMON FRASER**

Also by the same artist: *Lux and Alby Sign On and Save the Universe*, published by Acme and Dark Horse Comics. Sex, drugs and comics theft. (Page 20)

**RICK GEARY**

Rick's comics and illustrations have appeared in various magazines. His work has been collected in four volumes, including *Housebound with Rick Geary and Prairie Moon and Other Stories*. (Page 53)

**PETER GROSS**

Peter lives in Minneapolis. He works monthly on DC/Vertigo's *The Books of Magic*, and Marvel's *Doctor Strange*. He never dodges phone calls from editors when he is behind schedule. (Page 151)

**REBECCA GUAY**

Rebecca's work has appeared in *Cricket Magazine for Children*, *Topps' Star Wars Series II*, and various Marvel and DC Comics. She is currently the regular penciller for DC/Vertigo's *Black Orchid*. (Page 57)

**CRAIG HAMILTON**

J'adore Isadora. My first black-and-white comics story. I'm very pleased with it. I did a lot of research. It was inspirational. J'adore Isadora. Special thanks to Ray Snyder. (Page 110)

**TONY HARRIS**

Penciller, inker, cover painter Tony lives in Georgia with his wife, Stacie, and his two dobermen, Natasha and Cleopatra. He's currently pencilling and painting covers on *Starman* (DC). (Page 48)

**DANNY HELLMAN**

Hail the new dawn! Early next year, Untermensch Hellman will be rocketed to the lunar surface to do battle with Wippy the Two-Headed Death Slarg. Never forget, he gives his life to save us all. (Page 184)

**GRAHAM HIGGINS**

Has contributed to *Punch*, *Knockabout Comics*, and *Fortean Times*. Taught comic art in college and prison. Owns no cats. (Page 70)

**ED HILLYER**

Ilya "The Terrible" has worked for everyone (Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, *Deadline*, *Tundra*, *Fleetway*, *Kodansha*) but has returned to self-publishing with *The End of the Century Club*. Go figure. (Page 16)

**DAVID HINE**

A London-based artist, David has been, at various times, editor, artist, writer, and inker on characters ranging from Care Bears to Judge Dredd. His major work: *Strange Embrace* (Tundra/Atomeka). (Page 166)

**FLOYD HUGHES**

Floyd Hughes lives in Red Hook, Brooklyn with his wife Mayleen and daughter Sojourner. He believes all bigots should repent or die painfully. (Page 200)

**MICHAEL JANTZE**

When Michael draws, he thinks animals can talk and people can reason, that men are flexible and women are reasonable. He obviously doesn't make a lot of money at it. (Page 208)

**DAVID G. KLEIN**

David is an illustrator of magazines, books, and comics, including: *Frankenstein*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Darker Than You Think*, *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* #51, and stories for Marvel's 2099 Universe. (Page 161)

**TEDDY KRISTIANSEN**

Teddy lives in Copenhagen with his wife, daughter, two cats, and a huge phone bill from working abroad. He hopes to have more time for painting next year. (Page 198)

**PETER KUPER**

Kuper is co-founder of *World War 3 Illustrated*, and has written and drawn *New York, New York*, *Life and Death*, *Bleeding Heart*, and *Wildlife* (Fantagraphics). (Page 210)

**NGHIA LAM**

Nghia was born in a country that no longer exists. He now lives in the deserts of San Diego, where he enjoys the company of blowfish and blond women. (Page 168)

**ROGER LANGRIDGE**

Roger is the artist of *Zoot!*, an obscure black-and-white published by Fantagraphics, and has worked on *Deadline*, *Judge Dredd*, and for anybody else who will pay the rent. (Page 74)

**BATTON LASH**

Batton Lash is the creator of *Wolf & Byrd*, *Counselors of the Macabre* and the writer of the *Archie/Punisher* crossovers. His cartooning appears in the other Factoid Big Books. (Page 176)

**STEVE LEIALOHA**

Okay: *Quack*, *Spiderwoman*, *The Black Hood*, *Trypto the Acid Dog*, and *Jack the Lego Boy* are but a few of the titles I have worked on in the past twenty years. (Page 68)

**STEVEN LIEBER**

Steven Lieber hates to write about himself in the third person. He is not related to anyone at Marvel. (Page 100)

**COLIN MACNEIL**

Award-winning Judge Dredd artist Colin MacNeil is a man of many parts: artist, penguin-fancier, carnivore, friend to all dinosaurs, and teller of bad jokes. What a weird guy! (Page 34)

**GRAHAM MANLEY**

On moonlit nights, Graham Manley can sometimes be seen wandering aimlessly among the heather-covered hills and glens of Scotland. His interests include graveyards and dismembering Barbie dolls. (Page 181)

**ROBERT MCCALLUM**

I worked on the humor magazine *Electric Soup* while doing design, video, and animation at the Glasgow School of Art. I've worked on *Judge Dredd* and various other comics. (Page 122)

**CHRIS MCLOUGHLIN**

Chris was born on November 1, 1971. His work in comics includes other *Big Book* segments, *Mirror, Mirror* by Nick Vance, and phone calls when he should be in bed. (Page 41)

**LINDA MEDLEY**

Little Linda would *still* like to be a housewife when she grows up. (Page 195)



**TED NAIFEH**

Ted is most noted for *The Machine* from Dark Horse's superhero line. He is currently working on a creator-owned book for Epic called *The Exile of Abra Khan*. (Page 114)

**MITCH O'CONNELL**

Mitch is an award-winning, nationally-exhibited fine artist whose work has appeared in *National Lampoon*, *Spy*, and *Playboy*, among many publications. (Page 128)

**MICHAEL AVON OEMING**

*Boneheads in Ghost Town* and sometime *Judge Dredd* artist enjoys Jim Morrison poems, Brady Bunch reruns, and *Star Wars*. He believes in U.F.O.s. (Page 163)

**TAYYAR OZKAN**

Tayyar is a Turkish-born Kurd living in New York. His artwork has appeared in *World War 3 Illustrated* and *Heavy Metal*. He is drawing *La Pacifica*, written by Joel Rose and Amos Poe, the first graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 146)

**JEFF PARKER**

Though capable of doing decent, honest work, Parker seems to draw only *Solitaire* for Malibu Comics. He has also inked Bo Hampton on *Uther: The Half-Dead King*. (Page 91)

**RICK PARKER**

Rick is the artist for MTV's *Beavis and Butt-head* comic book from Marvel. Parker's comic strip *The Bossmen* and weekly cartoon *The Bullpen Bullseye* were also published by Marvel. (Page 156)

**JOE PHILLIPS**

In nine years I've done over fifty issues and close to 120 covers and cards. Titles include: *Ex-Mutants*, *Speed Racer*, *Justice League*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Spider-Man*. Upcoming project: *The Heretic* from Dark Horse. (Page 158)

**WOODROW PHOENIX**

Phoenix has dated several weirdos in his time, ranging from somewhat odd to certifiably lunatic. Credits: *The Sumo Family* (Manga Mania) and the forthcoming *Orson Welles: Secret Agent*. (Page 108)

**FRANK QUITELY**

Born in Glasgow, Scotland 1968. Unsuccessful spell in Glasgow School of Art. Dabbled in small press while freelancing for several years. Became full-time comic artist in early 1993. (Page 138)

**RICHARD PIERS RAYNER**

Russ Manning Award-winner for Most Promising Newcomer in 1989, Richard has illustrated *Dr. Fate*, *L.E.G.I.O.N. '90*, *Swamp Thing* and *Hellblazer*. He is also drawing *Road to Perdition*, a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line, written by Max Allan Collins. (Page 11)

**JAMES ROMBERGER**

James has been attacked by fascists in America and Europe. His drawings are in many private and museum collections. He lives in New York's Lower East Side. (Page 25)

**GREG RUTH**

At 6:45 A.M. I got a "bowl cut" and went to elementary school. At 10:53 A.M. I got the family station wagon and went to high school. Graduated Pratt at 12:37. Had a turkey sandwich around 1:12 P.M. (Page 36)

**ZINA SAUNDERS**

Zina Saunders's illustrations have been used in advertising, books, videocassette covers, and in the *Star Wars*, *Mars Attacks*, and *Superman: Man of Steel* trading cards. (Page 135)

**WILL SIMPSON**

While painting in a potato field Will drew *Big Ben: The Man With No Time For Crime* for Warrior. Other work: *Judge Dredd* for 2000 AD, and *Hellblazer* and *Vamps* for DC/Vertigo. (Page 78)

**ROBIN SMITH**

Robin was the art director for 2000 AD, an artist on *Judge Dredd*, and the illustrator of *Bogie Man*. He once had the opportunity to vote for Screaming Lord Sutch in an election. Robin is drawing *Green Candles*, a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Pages 63 and 207)

**JOE STATON**

Joe has worked for Marvel on *The Incredible Hulk*, and for DC illustrating *Superman*, *Batman*, *Plastic Man*, *Green Lantern*, and many others. Joe is the artist on *Family Man*, a graphic novel written by Jerome Charyn for the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 60)

**ALEC STEVENS**

Alec Stevens almost enjoys music more than art. He cites Bela Bartok, Stravinsky, Miles Davis, Coltrane, early Zappa/*Mothers*, Nick Drake, *Focus*, *Glassharp*, and Jukka Tolonen as favorites. (Page 170)

**TOM SUTTON**

TFS, a.k.a. Tom Sutton, really loved drawing this story. He hopes the publisher will assign him another one real soon. The rent is due. (Page 188)

**GREG THEAKSTON**

Greg has been working in comics since 1970. He's also known for his work bleaching classic comics, his work at *Mad Magazine*, and as editor/publisher of *Tease!* (Page 120)

**JAMIE TOLAGSON**

Mr. Tolagson (a lean, strapping 7' 2", 215 lbs.) believes that his large form distracts people from his true artistic nature. Jamie now lives in Phuket, Thailand, with his four lovable dobermen. (Page 178)

**MITCH WAXMAN**

A sturdy fellow who lives in New York City with his carnivorous turtle. Writer/artist of *Plasma Baby* and *Vengeance of the Aztecs*. (Page 203)

**ART WETHERELL**

I worked mainly in magazine illustration, with odd stints in comics (*Tarzan*, 2000 AD, Marvel U.K.). But comics stop me feeling bad, and I intend to stick around for a while. (Page 126)

**MARK WHEATLEY**

Mark holds the Inkpot and Speakeasy Awards for his creations, including *Mars* and *Breathtaker*. Current projects: *Radical Dreamer* for Blackball Comics and *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* and *Argus* for DC. (Page 193)

**MICHAEL ZECK**

Mike attended Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida. For the past twenty years he's worked on many comics, including *Captain America*, *Punisher*, *Spider-Man*, and *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight*. (Page 44)







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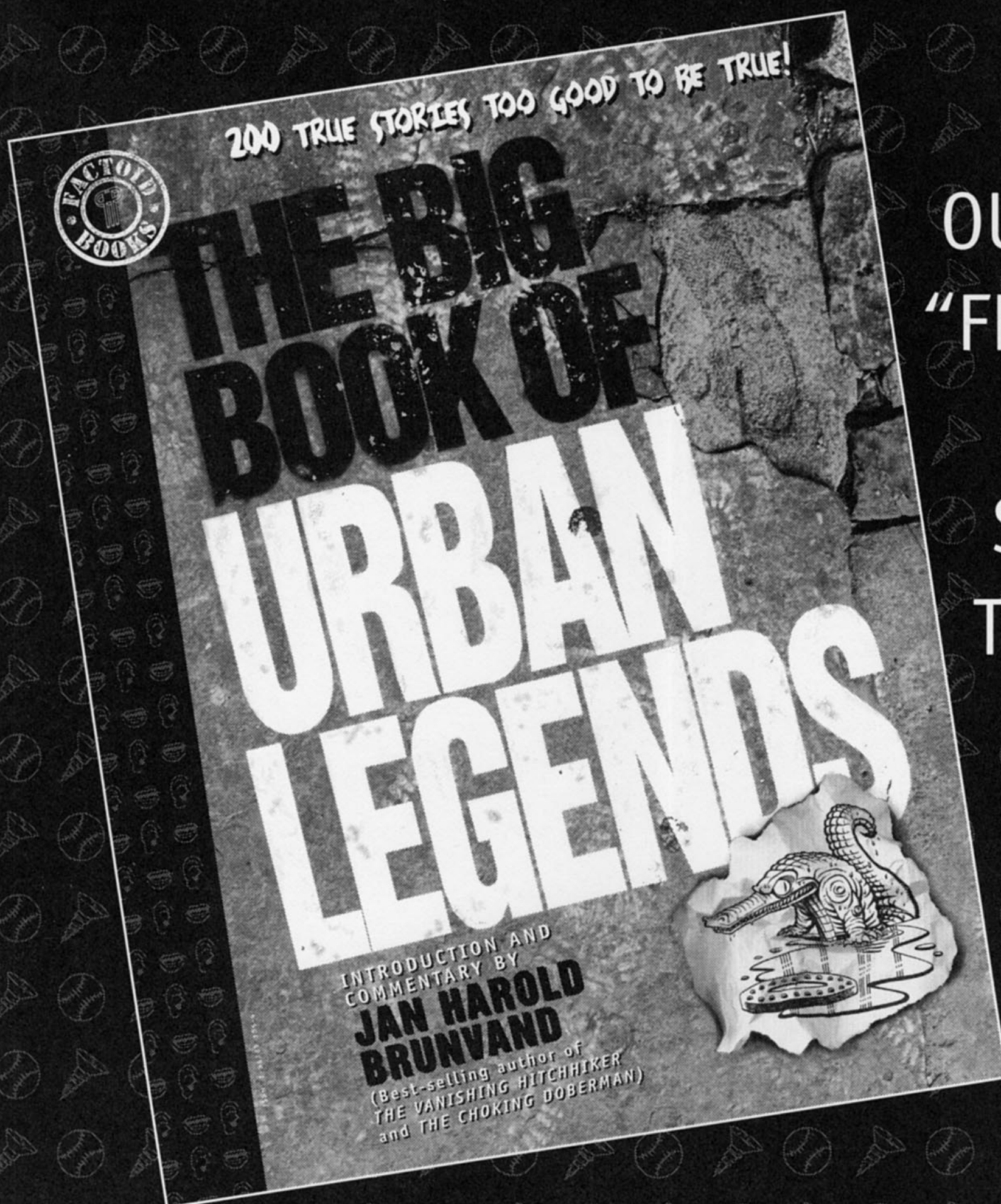
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